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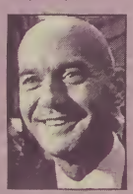
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Gay far-right Dutch politician assassinated

United Press International

The Netherlands struggled to come to grips with the assassination of controversial openly gay far-right Dutch leader Pim Fortuyn, who was shot and killed Monday, May 6.



Pim Fortuyn

Dutch leaders agreed Tuesday to go ahead with parliamentary elections set for May 15, as thousands grieved for the right-wing, anti-immigration candidate. Acting Prime Minister Wim Kok met with party leaders Tuesday in the Hague to decide whether to postpone the election. In the end, leaders decided to proceed with the balloting.

Fortuyn (pronounced fore-TOWN) was shot in the head, neck, and chest as he left a radio interview in the Dutch town of Hilversum, a dozen miles from the capital of Amsterdam. Eyewitnesses said the 54-year-old politician's body was taken away in a bloodstained white sheet after receiving urgent medical attention from paramedics.

Dutch police have confirmed that they arrested a suspect in the killing, but have not released details. The *New York Times*, in its Wednesday edition, reported that members of Fortuyn's party identified the suspect as Volkert van der Graaf, a 32-year-old Dutch environmental activist. The *Times* said police did not reveal a motive for the killing, although the suspect has reportedly confessed. The newspaper also reported that Fortuyn had shown little support for environmental issues.

News reports stated that the suspect was married and had one child, and that he worked for a group called Ecology Offensive. Police said investigators found ammunition at the suspect's home matching shell casings at the crime scene, and environmental literature.

Fortuyn, an openly gay former sociology professor, was not short of enemies. He recently enraged the Netherlands' 3 million-strong immigrant community and the country's mainstream political parties after he described Muslim culture as "backward."

Fortuyn's newly formed party – "List Pim Fortuyn" – has fought an election campaign centered on halting immigration and clamping down on violent crime. The party's platform appeared to be gaining support among voters disenchanted with eight years of center-left rule. In March, the party won more than one-third of the votes in the Netherlands' second-largest city of Rotterdam. Polls pre-

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'Gay panic' defense raised in chat room murder case

by Ed Walsh

If you ever participated in an Internet chat room, the exchange below between two 22-year-old men will undoubtedly look very familiar.

But there is a horrific difference.

One of the men who took part in this chat would be found the following day stabbed to death so savagely that detectives would label it "overkill." The other man confessed to police he committed the killing but he would tell investigators that he acted in self-defense.

delasallesboy97: hi
pimpassblingblingb: how are you?
delasallesboy97: how are you?
pimpassblingblingb: i'm ok
delasallesboy97: I'm good
delasallesboy97: do u still remember me/
pimpassblingblingb: that's good
delasallesboy97: i'm Roggi.
pimpassblingblingb: yup



Suspect Brian Misquez

pimpassblingblingb: sure do
pimpassblingblingb: Roggie
delasallesboy97: 22/filipino El Cerrito here
pimpassblingblingb: yep.
delasallesboy97: i'm glad to see you again
pimpassblingblingb: me too
pimpassblingblingb: I miss hanging out with u
delasallesboy97: do you still live in Antioch?
pimpassblingblingb: yes
delasallesboy97: me too
pimpassblingblingb: where do you live?
delasallesboy97: El Cerrito
pimpassblingblingb: oh that's right
delasallesboy97: i remember I was gonna see you one time but u didn't make it



Murder victim Roggi De Chavez

Brian Misquez, pimpassblingblingb, agreed to meet Roggi De Chavez, delasallesboy97, on July 6, 2001, the day after this chat. The meeting place was De Chavez's apartment in the quiet East Bay city of El Cerrito. De Chavez, a food service employee at the International House at the University of California, Berkeley, lived with his sister. He promised Misquez they would be alone.

De Chavez's sister returned from work early on the evening of July 6 to find her brother's dead body sprawled on the living room floor. A blood trail led to his body from the kitchen. She called 911 telling a dispatcher that it looked like her brother had been stabbed.

When the first officers arrived, they quickly called for backup, declaring the gruesome scene a 187, police code for homicide. De Chavez had been stabbed more than two dozen times. He had been savagely attacked with two different knives, both from De Chavez's kitchen. One of the knives was plunged into De Chavez's head with such force that the blade broke off in his skull. He was wrapped in a blue blanket wearing underwear, one sock, and an orange T-shirt.

It took De Chavez four to five minutes to die after the initial stab wound was inflicted, according to Contra Costa County Deputy District Attorney Bruce Flynn. Four to five of the stabs were inflicted after De Chavez was already dead, Flynn said.

Police canvassed the area and eventually found one of the knives allegedly used in the attack in bushes near the El Cerrito Plaza BART station. Later, investigators found De Chavez's Honda Civic in the parking lot of a nearby Target store. The killer apparently used it as his getaway car. The keys were still

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Poor patients suffer under AIDS funding cuts

by Matthew S. Bajko

Medical providers who treat and care for the city's most underserved people with HIV and AIDS say they fear the city's budget problems could mean a death sentence for their patients.

Due to cuts in federal Ryan White CARE Act funding, numerous HIV primary care facilities have had to reduce hours, reduce the number of patients they can see, and eliminate certain services.

And they fear these measures are only the beginning of more potential reductions to their programs as both the city develops its 2002-2003 budget and the HIV Health Services Planning Council begins prioritizing programs for the 2003-2004 fiscal year.

"San Francisco has always touted itself as the 'model' for the rest of the country. We fear the 'model' is currently unsound and that the advances in HIV care and patient longevity achieved over the last few years are at risk for unfunded patients in San Francisco," wrote Dr. John Stansell, medical director of the University of California, San Francisco's Positive Health Program, on behalf of the HIV Primary Care Coalition.

The HIV Primary Care Coalition, an association of organizations providing primary medical care and "wrap around" services to Ryan White CARE funded patients, sent the letter to the HIV planning council in order to convey the devastating impact a 6 percent "across the board" cut has had on their ability to treat uninsured HIV-infected patients.

In February the council implemented the cuts in order to absorb a $2.2 million reduction in Ryan White CARE funding from the federal government. The city will receive roughly $33.5 million in Ryan White CARE Act Title I funds for fiscal year 2002-03, a reduction of 6.2 percent from the previous year.

"Further 'across the board' cuts in the 2003-2004 budget year will severely compromise, if not completely undermine, the centerpiece of Ryan White/CARE legislation – primary medical care," warned Stansell in the letter, signed by nearly 20 members of the coalition.

"Fat was trimmed long ago; muscle and bone are eroding today," added Stansell.

According to the coalition's letter, the reduction in funds have thus far resulted in the following cutbacks in patient care:

• The Haight Ashbury Free Medical Clinic will reduce its HIV caseload by 10 percent.

• The Forensic AIDS Project will reduce nursing and case management, limiting its ability to manage patients during incarceration. The project has also made cuts to its homebase/jail transition program, meaning less nursing time and compromise management during the transition from imprisonment to community life.

• The Women's Integrated Delivery Service, Tenderloin Care, and the Asian Pacific Islander Wellness Center's integrated services programs are decreasing patient care hours and the WIDS program will limit access to gynecological services.

• The Bay Area Perinatal AIDS Center, the only program of its type in Northern California, will reduce social work resources.

• The Positive Health Program, Ward 86 at San Francisco General Hospital, will eliminate weekend and holiday drop-in services, sending 700 patients per month to the hospital's emergency department for care. Also, the UCSF Women's Specialty Clinic and Ward 86 will reduce social work services.

• The Positive Health Program will fur-

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Rumors fights breast cancer


Jane Philomen Cleland

Club Rumors bar in Hayward was hopping Sunday, May 5 when it held a benefit that raised more than $1,000 for breast cancer. Owner Nick Allen, right, was joined by patrons at the event, which featured a raffle of prizes including a pool table, dinners at local restaurants, and other items. About 350 people attended the benefit.

SF vies for world's first gay museum

by Matthew S. Bajko

With the merger of San Francisco's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society of Northern California with the International Museum of Gay and Lesbian History, the city is now a front-runner in the race to build the world's first gay museum.

And with the awarding of $100,000 in planning grants from two San Francisco sources to the new organization, the city is on its way to adding a premium attraction to truly make it a gay mecca.

"Efforts are under way in a couple of countries in Europe to launch GLBT museums, but nothing on the scale we are aiming for currently exists in the United States or elsewhere," said historical society board member Gerard Koskovich. "If we do this right, we'll have a tourist destination that can advance social understanding while educating the public on an unprecedented scale about GLBT history, culture, and contemporary issues."

After a year of negotiating the merger, the two organizations officially announced their plans May 2 during the dedication of the Reverend Yvette Flunder Historical Gallery at the new LGBT Community Center on Market Street. The historical society will use the room as a permanent exhibition space to display its holdings.

"We hope to whet the public's appetite for gay history by giving them a taste of the past with our exhibits at the community center – as well as a taste of what the future holds in store once our museum is built," said Paul Gabriel, the historical society's exhibition director.

The legal documents for the merger were officially signed March 29, and the merger will take effect once the paperwork is approved by California Attorney General Bill Lockyer.

"Over the past several years as our organization grew, we found ourselves doing more exhibit work," said historical society Executive Director Susan Stryker, who will remain as director of the merged organization. "We began to think instead of being an archives and reading room that does exhibits, we should be a museum that has an archives center within it."

The international museum's board has yet to officially designate a site for the project and is in the midst of an eight-year capital campaign to raise $30 million to construct the building. As it embarked on that task, Stryker said she wanted San Francisco to be on the top of the list for the museum's home.

"I felt we had to bring their group to San Francisco. It needs to be here," she said.

For the international museum's board, currently based in Los Angeles, it only seemed fitting to return to where their project began.

"We started the project in 1996 here in San Francisco. It seems only appropriate to find myself back here tonight," Thomas Ryan, director of the museum, said during the reception last Thursday.

Ryan intends to step down and join the board of the new organization. He said the new board can now focus more on planning instead of simply fundraising.

"This merger adds substance to our dreams. We were an all-volunteer group and our primary focus since our founding in 1996 has been fundraising – we've secured more than a million dollars in pledges and bequests over the last two years," said Ryan. "Now we're ready to get serious about historical content, professional staffing and plans for a building."

To assist the museum project in its planning, the mayor's office awarded the historical society a $75,000 grant to conduct a market analysis and financial feasibility study for the proposed museum. The San Francisco Foundation also has awarded the historical society $25,000 in facilities planning funds.

In addition, the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency's plans for creating a new arts and culture zone in the mid-Market District includes support for a gay museum.

"It certainly makes San Francisco a front-runner in our search for a permanent home," said Stryker.

More help is on the way. This fall the museum will be the main beneficiary of the Folsom Street Fair, September 29, and should receive $10,000 to $30,000 depending on turnout at the event and the number of volunteers the organization can supply.

The historical society also recently received two grants to help in its preservation work. One is a $6,730 conservation assessment grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services the society will use to survey the physical condition of its facilities and holdings.

The second is a $8,290 federal grant from the National Film Preservation Foundation to help preserve copies of rare gay home movies from the 1940s and 1950s.

"Our history needs to be preserved and needs to be told," said Ryan. "For a lot of young people, their history goes back five years. It would be a shame for them to have to reinvent the wheel every time."

For more information about the museum project, visit the Web site www.gaymuseum.org or call (415) 777-5455. ▼

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Supreme Court to review cases of gay prisoners

by Ed Walsh

The California Supreme Court will decide the fates of two gay prisoners at the center of a battle with Governor Gray Davis for parole.

Last Wednesday, May 1, at a private meeting in San Francisco, the state high court justices chose to take up the cases of Robert Rosenkrantz, 34, and Mark Smith, 46, who are serving life sentences for unrelated 1985 homicides in Southern California. Both were convicted of second-degree murder.

"It all comes down to the Supreme Court," said Rosenkrantz in an exclusive telephone interview with the *Bay Area Reporter* on Sunday, May 5. "If they rule against me, that's it."

Rosenkrantz expects the California Supreme Court will decide sometime this summer whether to allow Smith's and his court-ordered paroles to stand. If the high court affirms the rulings of the lower courts, the pair could be freed immediately. The court set no timetable for its ruling. All sides are working now to prepare written briefs.

The attorney representing both Smith and Rosenkrantz, Rowan Klein, told the *B.A.R.* that he will file a motion for the court to expedite its decision. Klein said that he didn't know whether the justices would take up the Smith and Rosenkrantz cases together or separately.

Two different Superior Court judges and two Court of Appeal panels have ordered Rosenkrantz's release, ruling that the governor unfairly and illegally blocked his parole. Davis, using the resources

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AIDS activists' charges dismissed; DA refiles

by Liz Highleyman

The week before their trial was scheduled to begin, a judge dismissed charges against controversial AIDS activists David Pasquarelli and Michael Petrelis due to procedural irregularities.

On May 2, Judge Kent Grunewald dismissed 27 misdemeanor and felony charges against the two men. Pasquarelli and Petrelis were charged with conspiracy, stalking, and making criminal threats after they placed repeated – and, many contend, abusive and obscene – phone calls to members of the Department of Public Health and the media (including the *Bay Area Reporter*) denouncing their policies and reporting around AIDS.

Pasquarelli still faces five similar charges in a separate case involving calls he allegedly made to employees of the University of California at San Francisco. He has pleaded not guilty to those charges.

The charges were dropped due to court overcrowding. The reassignment of Judge Perker Meeks – in conjunction with the winter holidays – led to repeated scheduling delays during the men's preliminary hearing late last year and earlier this year, which resulted in Pasquarelli and Petrelis spending 72 days in jail. The men were released on February 8 after Meeks reduced their combined bail from $1,100,000 to $220,000.

Those on the receiving end of Pasquarelli's and Petrelis's phone calls have been reluctant to comment on the latest development. Eileen Shields and Dr. Willi McFarland, both of the DPH, declined the *B.A.R.*'s request for comment. Said Sabin Russell, a health and science reporter for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, "It's the judicial process ... what more can I say?"

The San Francisco District Attorney's office immediately refiled

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Dr. David York
Chiropractor

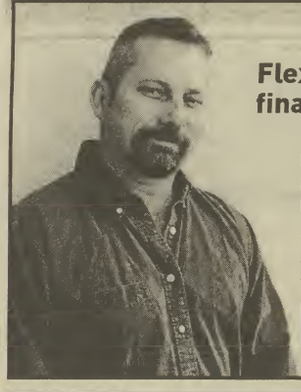
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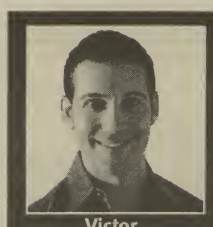
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Week link

by Jane Warner

Pilsner Inn, 225 Church; Cafe Du Nord, 2170 Market; Klotz Watches and Clocks, 2166 Market; Sausage Factory, 517 Castro: A series of burglaries has occurred in the Castro neighborhood recently, and police believe the same suspect is responsible.

On May 2, two janitors working late in the Sausage Factory heard a banging noise coming from the front of the restaurant. When they went to investigate, they saw a man hitting the restaurant's jukebox with a hammer. The suspect looked surprised when he saw the janitors and quickly ran out of the restaurant. One of the janitors chased the suspect up Castro toward Market where he lost sight of him, while the other janitor called 911. Police searched the area but could not find the suspect – described as a white male, 5 feet 11 inches tall, 150 pounds, 30-35 years old, with brown hair, and wearing a black jacket and black slacks. The front door of the restaurant, which had been locked, had been pried open with a crow bar.

The next day, the owner of the Pilsner Inn showed up for work in the morning to find the security gate pried open next to the front door. A check inside revealed that the cellar and liquor room doors were forced open as well. Several hundred dollars worth of liquor was missing along with a purple baseball bag full of tools. The owner told police the robbery must have happened between the hours of 3-6 a.m. It was determined that the suspect carried away five cases of liquor through the security gate facing Church Street. There are no known witnesses.

On May 4, at 10:20 a.m., police responded to a burglar alarm at Klotz Watches and Clocks. When they arrived, they saw that the door had been pried open and a glass display case inside the store had been shattered. Officers searched the premises but found no one inside. The owner of the store arrived and determined that nine watches – including two Rolex watches – were missing. The total loss was estimated at more than $10,000.

Crime & Punishment

A short time later, officers responded to another alarm two doors up at Cafe Du Nord. Police were met by the manager who led them through the front door. Officers discovered that the rear door had been pried open, and a crowbar was found behind the bar. Three bottles of alcohol were missing.

On May 6 at 6:30 a.m., the owner of the Pilsner Inn called 911 and reported another break-in. This time the suspect gained entry by walking through a neighbor's backyard and breaking the bar's glass patio door. The office door frame had been splintered but not opened. The owner told police he left work at 5:30 a.m. and returned an hour later, possibly interrupting the burglary, as nothing had been taken.

Police are asking for the community's help in solving these burglaries. Please call (415) 553-1351 with any information.

Doggone

500 block of Castro, April 27, noon: A man who was staying in his recreational vehicle with his dog met a man and invited him to spend the night. In the morning, the guest offered to take the dog for a walk. The man agreed and handed over his canine pal, named "Dog," to his new acquaintance. The man and dog were last seen walking southbound on Castro toward 19th Street. When the man did not return after a couple of hours, the victim began to search the neighborhood. By 5 p.m., the victim notified police.

Described as a Latino male, 18-20 years old, 5 feet 5 inches tall, 150 pounds, clean shaven, and wearing a red baseball hat, the suspect is said to frequent the neighborhood. "Dog" is described as a spayed 11-year-old golden retriever, small for her breed, wearing a red collar and leash. The victim has had her since she was a puppy. Anyone with information is asked to call (415) 554-6364.

Come again?

16th at Sharon, May 1, 8:30 p.m.: A woman walking on 16th Street near Sharon was approached by a strange man who, for no apparent reason told her, "I'm going to kill you."

The woman thought she misunderstood the man and asked him to repeat himself.

"I'm going to kill you," he said, then asked, "Where do you live?"

Alarmed, the woman quickly walked away and the man began to follow her. The woman quickened her pace and was able to lose the suspect, then went home and called police. The suspect is described as a white male, 35-40 years old, 5 feet 10 inches tall, 145 pounds, with blond hair and unknown clothing. ▼

Federal judge declines medical pot appeal

by Liz Highleyman

A federal judge has denied a request to lift a 1998 injunction that prohibits medical marijuana clubs from dispensing the herb.

U.S. District Court Judge Charles Breyer heard arguments from the federal government and from attorneys representing the Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative and the Marin Alliance for Medical Marijuana on April 19, and issued a summary judgment last Friday, May 3.

Last week's ruling is the latest in a legal saga that has spanned four years. In September 1999, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals directed Breyer to reconsider his preliminary injunction, paving the way for a Supreme Court hearing.

In May 2001, the Supreme Court unanimously ruled against the clubs, saying that cannabis has no recognized medical uses and that medical necessity may not be used by a providers' organization as a defense against prosecution under federal controlled substances laws.

However, the Supreme Court ruled narrowly, and many medical cannabis advocates believe it left several avenues open for further constitutional challenge, including questions about intrastate commerce, the federal government's ability to interfere with state laws and health policies, and people's substantive due process right to relief from pain.

"President Bush promised in his presidential campaign to give back power to the states, and the states of California, Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Hawaii, Arizona, Maine, Nevada, and Colorado have spoken," said OCBC lead attorney Robert Raich. "We think it's inappropriate for President Bush to overrule the will of the people on this issue."

When asked about his views on medical cannabis during the campaign, Bush was quoted in the *Dallas Morning News* as saying, "I believe each state can choose that decision as they so choose."

In addition to keeping in place the injunction, Judge Breyer declined – reportedly at the urging of the federal government – to reopen the case, saying that the OCBC has no constitutional right to distribute medicinal cannabis.

"With or without medical authorization, the distribution of marijuana is illegal under federal law," he stated. Breyer rejected both the interstate commerce and substantive due process arguments.

The clubs have until May 24 to let the court know if they will voluntarily desist from selling cannabis. After he hears the federal government's response in June, Breyer is expected to issue a permanent injunction.

Raich said the OCBC would appeal again – using the new legal grounds – to the Ninth Circuit Court, which has given the clubs their most favorable outcome to date. The case may eventually again reach the Supreme Court.

Medical marijuana advocates fear that Breyer's decision may pave the way for further action by the Drug Enforcement Administration against local cannabis clubs. With a permanent injunction, "at a minimum, they would have to close the remaining clubs covered by that injunction," said Dale Gieringer of the California chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. "Beyond that, they will apply it as many other places as they can. Every time they get a favorable decision, they move."

Most clubs operating in Bay Area today are not directly involved in the ongoing lawsuit, which originally included six Northern California clubs, some of which are no longer in business. ▼

NCLR turns 25

by Zak Szymanski

Saturday, May 11 was a breezy night, perfect for the giant, human-like wind socks that danced in front of San Francisco's Moscone Center to greet the well-dressed crowds.

About 2,200 people pored into the building's ballroom to mark the 25th anniversary of the National Center for Lesbian Rights. The annual dinner – especially significant this year because of the milestone celebrated – raised about $400,000 for NCLR.

Featured speakers included civil rights attorney and Ally Awardee Eva Paterson, whose speech urged attendees to stop reacting to right-wing tactics and start setting their own progressive agenda. NCLR Executive Director Kate Kendell also took to the podium, describing and introducing the organization's past clients and cases, and wrapping up by highlighting Sharon Smith, who recently won the right to sue for wrongful death for the tragic loss of her partner Diane Whipple. Guests also enjoyed the humor of comedian Kate Clinton, and the music of the legendary Cris Williamson.

"It was really tremendous," said one partygoer at the end of the evening's festivities. "It was completely inspiring, and made me feel proud to be a lesbian in this city."

NCLR is a national legal resource center devoted to advancing the rights and safety of lesbians and their families. Proceeds from the dinner will help to support its expanding legal programs for the LGBT community. ▼



Jane Philomen Cleland

Honoree Eva Paterson

Column item about Sharon Smith's 'new flame' criticized

by Ed Walsh

Several supporters of Sharon Smith, the partner of dog-mauling victim Diane Whipple, are speaking out against a Matier and Ross column in the *San Francisco Chronicle* last week that reported gossip about Smith showing up at a party with "her new flame," who, they wrote, is "a virtual Whipple look-alike."

"I'm so disgusted with them," Smith's sister, Janet Batchelder, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "They have crossed the line."

Smith declined to respond to the columnists but Batchelder sent them an e-mail to protest making Smith the fodder for gossip.

"For 15 months Sharon has had to endure media scrutiny and have nearly every aspect of her private life in the headlines," Batchelder wrote. "Now, with the trial at last over and she is attempting to take some steps forward and continue on with her life – YOU print something so insensitive and tasteless!!!"

This is the complete item that ran in the *Chronicle* on Wednesday, May 1: "ON THE SCENE: Lots of double takes at Friday night's opening of San Francisco's hot new restaurant Julia. But the eyes weren't on celebrity guest and dog-mauling prosecutor Jim Hammer. No – the main attraction

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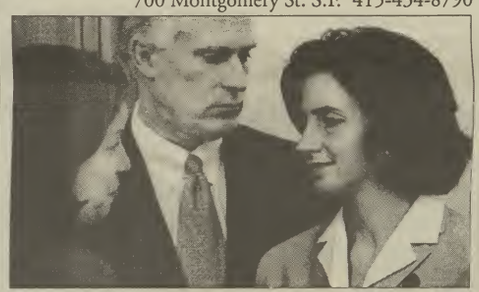


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No gloating here

Editorial

Contrary to the paranoid delusions of the AIDS dissidents who swamped our in-box with letters criticizing us for reporting last week that ACT UP/San Francisco cheerleader and AIDS denialist David Pasquarelli is in the hospital battling an AIDS-related condition (cryptococcal meningitis), we're neither gleeful nor gloating about the news. Rather, as the article clearly stated, we were just reporting on information sent to us – and likely numerous other media outlets – by ACT UP/San Francisco itself. And we found it newsworthy that Pasquarelli – as someone who for years has threatened and harassed people over the phone and in person just because they disagree with his outlandish claims that HIV does not cause AIDS and his mantra, "AIDS is over" – is being treated now for a condition of the very disease which he claims doesn't exist.

The very media savvy members of ACT UP/SF knew exactly what they were doing when they sent out e-mails concerning Pasquarelli's health. You don't send a news item to a newspaper and expect it not to be covered. Now, the dissidents are crying foul and calling us insensitive. That's intellectual dishonesty – and they know it.

AIDS is not a laughing matter and we know all too well how many people have been hospitalized or are in the hospital now or who have died from the disease. This year marks the 21st year of the first reports of a disease that seemed to target gay men. We report on something related to HIV/AIDS virtually every week. Don't tell us we don't know about AIDS. We do.

Some of the letter writers took us to task for the story and suggested that Pasquarelli "does not deserve this kind of treatment." To that, we say that the numerous people who have been targets of his alleged threatening and harassing phone calls at their homes at all hours of the night and at their work didn't deserve to be subjected to that kind of treatment. Pasquarelli was arrested last November and charged with numerous felonies and misdemeanors stemming from his latest alleged harassing and threatening phone calls to health workers and members of the media, including the *Bay Area Reporter*. Now, of course, as we report this week, the entire process must start over because of a legal technicality. Another preliminary hearing is set for May 15.

According to testimony at the first preliminary hearing late last year, Pasquarelli made a phone call to Dr. Jeffrey Klausner of the Department of Public Health and threatened that "we can do this the easy way or can do it the hard way when members of ACT UP/SF come down to visit." Or how about Pasquarelli implying that Klausner was a "Nazi doctor." Or the recording of this call to Klausner, played at the hearing: "Your days of harassing gay men from the pulpit of the Health Department are coming to an end – this is your warning." Those calls were acceptable? Those calls were deserved by the people who received them? No, they were not.

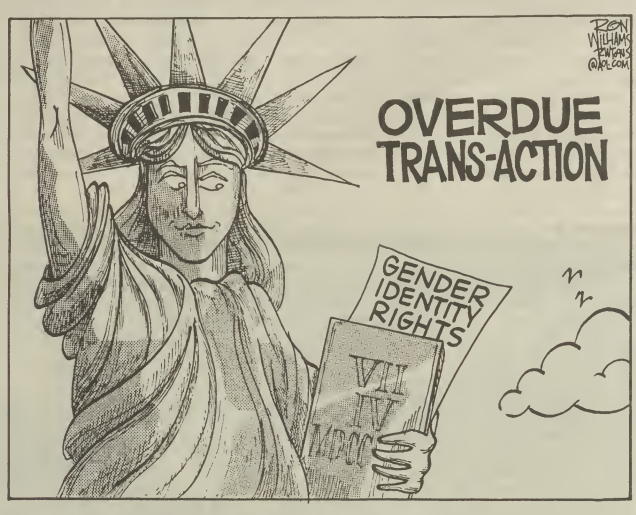
Pasquarelli and his supporters – interestingly not many are from San Francisco – also claim that his 72 days in the county jail caused his current health problems. But we must point out that if Pasquarelli hadn't made the threatening and harassing phone calls in the first place, he wouldn't have been arrested and subsequently wouldn't have spent time in jail. Yes, the bail was high; but three judges upheld the original bail amount because of the number of people allegedly threatened and harassed by Pasquarelli. When Judge Perker Meeks later reduced the bail, Pasquarelli posted it and was released, pending trial.

Pasquarelli's inability to obey the law led to his present legal situation. And Pasquarelli's current legal problems are nothing new to the numerous legitimate AIDS activists, health workers, and AIDS nonprofit staff who have been the targets of his vitriol over the years. A trail of restraining orders is a testament to his abusive behavior.

ACT UP/San Francisco has had a dubious record since it was overtaken by the AIDS denialists several years ago. Today the club makes money – and lots of it – selling medical marijuana to patients suffering from AIDS, while at the same time continuing the rants that "HIV does not cause AIDS" and "AIDS is over." Are we the only ones who see a disconnect there? Members have never been able to answer our question: Why do you sell medical cannabis to people living with a disease you claim doesn't exist?

We'd also like to remind readers about a forgotten aspect of ACT UP/San Francisco's so-called science. That would be its previous advocacy of people using DNCB, a photo processing chemical. It was more than a decade ago when this quack theory was floated and ACT UP/SF embraced it. Up until the early 1990s, members believed that if you painted the photo processing chemical on your arm, it would stimulate an immune response that would beat HIV. Where's that theory today? Nowhere.

If the science is someday proven wrong about AIDS, we'll report it. That's more than can be said for the AIDS denialists and their hyperbole. ▼



An open letter to the pope

Guest Opinion

by Supervisor Mark Leno

I am writing this letter to urge the leadership of the Catholic Church to end the scapegoating of gay men as a response to the sexual abuse of minors by the clergy. I also call upon San Francisco Archbishop William Levada and the leaders of other faiths to join me in condemning statements of some leaders in the Catholic hierarchy who have attempted to blame their own failures on an entire class of people, thousands of whom have served the church with selfless commitment and the highest standards of moral conduct.

Pope John Paul II recently delivered an edict that priests who abuse minors can be forgiven, but later delivered another edict declaring that individuals who live in "a habitual state of serious sin," i.e. homosexuals, can never be forgiven. Bishop Wilton Gregory, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, emerged from the recent meetings at the Vatican and stated, "This is an ongoing struggle – it is most importantly a struggle to make sure that the Catholic priesthood is not dominated by homosexual men."

It should be noted that while the gay community has been scapegoated by the church as the responsible party for these crimes, the church has been overlooking widespread sexual abuse of its female members. Reports cited by the Human Rights Campaign have shown that women in religious orders of Africa, Brazil, India, Ireland, Italy, New Guinea, the Philippines, and the United States have been raped by priests, underscoring the fact that sexual exploitation within the church is not a gay problem.

Efforts to purge gay priests or screen out gay seminary candidates demonstrate the Catholic Church's equating homosexuality with pedophilia. For decades, gay and lesbian people have been fighting the ugly and untrue charge that gay people are sexual predators of children. The fact that there is no link between sexual orientation and child abuse is well documented, and the American Psychological Association, the American Academy of Child Psychiatrists, and the National Association of Social Workers all agree that there is no predisposition for child abuse among gay people. There is even evidence in a 1994 study by Carole Jenny, Thomas A. Rustler, and Kimberly L. Power of the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver that a child is 100 times more likely to be molested by a relative's heterosexual partner than by someone who is gay.

By continually disparaging gay men as a class, the church can subsequently have greater ease in its practice of discrimination. If gay men are criminal by definition, why should they be protected by law? The Employment Non-Discrimination Act pending in Congress, which would protect employees from discrimination based on sexual orientation in hiring, firing, and promotion, could more easily be defeated. The ability of gay men to form families through adoption could be curtailed for obvious reasons, including the safety of young children. Should we then turn the clock back to 1978 when Senator John Briggs proposed Proposition 6, which would have prohibited all gay men from the teaching profession based on identical logic put forth today by the pope, his cardinals, and bishops?

Fair-minded and clear-thinking people must join together in a loud unanimous voice against this dangerous logic and grave social injustice. Together we must reject this scapegoating, reject this anachronistic stereotyping, and reiterate that we will not allow the gay male community to be held responsible for the failings of the church hierarchy in the protection of criminals instead of children.

I think that Mary Louise Cervone, president of Dignity USA, summed it up best when she said, "This is about violence against children and abuse of power. It has nothing to do with sexual orientation." We must make sure we communicate that message loudly and clearly today so we don't suffer the consequences tomorrow. ▼

LETTERS



A cautionary tale

I want to thank Dirk Shafer and Russell Hinton, the makers of *Circuit*, for their cautionary tale. The film tells the story of how a newcomer to Los Angeles gets caught up in the web of sex, drugs, and seemingly endless "circuit" parties, which have become huge international gay events. The sobering denouement seems to say, "Look guys, we're killing ourselves running fast on this road to nowhere ... pumping ourselves up while we tear ourselves down."

I wanted to see this movie as someone outside of the "circuit" who has been concerned with the direction of the LGBT movement since the heady days of gay liberation in the 1970s. I was a member of Bay Area Gay Liberation from its founding in 1975, until its demise in 1979. BAGL was a seminal political organization for San Francisco gay men. We had a vision, a mission. Formed in response to police attacks on gay men on Castro Street over Labor Day weekend 1974, we confronted the Police Department. As a result, they formed the lesbian/gay liaison office and stopped entrapment practices, although police violence still persists.

BAGL activists maneuvered a lesbian/gay friendly curriculum through the San Francisco school board. We ended double and triple carding of African Americans at gay bars and the late lamented baths. We protested Anita Bryant and the Supreme Court's upholding of the Georgia sodomy law. We marched with the farm workers, the San Quentin Six, the tenants of the International Hotel, and the people of Vietnam. We helped set the night on fire at City Hall on May 21, 1979, when a jury acquitted Dan White of first-degree murder. Many of us believed that nobody can be truly liberated until all of us are free. Some of us still believe it.

Then, BAGL split into two groups, and eventually fell apart. One group favored a broader, more radical "liberation" approach, and the other a more narrowly focused "gay rights" approach.

The Democratic Party opened up to gays and lesbians, which consolidated the shift for the whole movement to the more pragmatic and assimilationist "gay rights" agenda. ACT UP brought back the spirit of liberation, then died of virtually the same political split that broke up BAGL. Queer Nation gave it a shot. LAGAI, Out of Control, the Dyke March, a lot of queer youth, and some of us old-timers still keep the faith, but the mainstream LGBT movement has passed us by.

Gay "Freedom" Day has become Gay "Pride" Day, as political speeches are marginalized so the celebration can be sold to the highest corporate bidder. On the one day of the year when a million queer people and our allies could be united around something as basic as healthcare for all, it has become one more circuit party stop.

Don't get me wrong. It's important the movement has become so visible, that so many celebrities have come out, that it's no longer a stigma, or life threatening, to be queer in many parts of the world. Pride Day must be as exciting for a person coming out now as the old Freedom Day celebrations were for me 25 years ago. The many community centers and organizations to defend gay rights are hard won and much needed gains.

Yet I long for a rebirth of a broad radical vision for our movement that connects to other movements for freedom, justice, and environmental sustainability, and challenges discrimination among our own. John Ashcroft, global warming, the wars on drugs and terrorism, increasing homelessness ,and lack of access to healthcare and social services may not be "gay" issues, but they affect lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people. Racism runs as deeply in our community as in the society at large.

"Those issues are extraneous. They will divide our movement," you might say. "The only thing that unites us is being gay."

"How about being human? How about a long range vision for the future of the planet?" I ask, but I'm drowned out.

The music has started, and the dance begins.

Charlie Hinton
San Francisco

'Sickening' report

How sickening that your paper would report with glee that David Pasquarelli of ACT UP/SF had developed an "AIDS-related" disease and was hospitalized *["AIDS denialist in hospital w/AIDS condition," May 2]*. For your information, stress and fear are perhaps the leading cause of AIDS along with the mental stress of being labeled HIV-positive. Being jailed as a "terrorist" cannot be good for your health. The fact that the two activists even survived the ordeal is a miracle. Getting sick is allowed and the connection to HIV still remains to be questioned and challenged. David's hospitalization is not a proof that HIV causes AIDS at all. Still the sick minds at the *B.A.R.* twist the story to meet their AIDS cult agenda.

Terry Dobbin
Toronto, Canada

'Sadistic' story

I read your May 2 article "AIDS denialist in hospital w/AIDS condition" with some concern. Your article attempts, in no uncertain terms, to insinuate that David Pasquarelli is dying from the very disease that he has challenged for so long. Pasquarelli is an AIDS radical who has fought to open up the discourse around HIV and AIDS, and who is now suffering physically (it's prison that has made him ill) for daring to champion free speech in post 911 USA. He does not deserve this kind of treatment; no one does. In Canada we have AIDS dissidents too, and we also have controversy. But we would never stoop as low as this: to wag our fingers and say "I told you so!" when someone is sick. I don't think I have ever seen such an ill-conceived, mean-spirited sadistic article in my life. David is ill. Let's leave it at that. Or would a little sympathy be too much (or too human) a response?

Sky Gilbert
Toronto, Canada

'Insensitive'

First of all, one does not need to have been diagnosed with HIV or AIDS to be suffering from cryptococcal meningitis. Instead of making the disease itself your focal point you decided to write an "I told you so" article in regards to David's belief surrounding HIV and AIDS. What kind of human being are you?

If for one minute you think that David Pasquarelli is the only local gay man lying in one of the many hospital beds with this illness, you are absolutely wrong. I would suggest that instead of making David a scapegoat to this potentially dangerous disease that the *B.A.R.* write a story warning HIV-positive gay men about their potential of suffering from it and that they should see their doctors right away if they are exhibiting any signs.

Shame on the *B.A.R.* for being so insensitive.

Steven Keller
San Francisco

More on AIDS denialist

Is there a hint of gloating by Cynthia Laird in her article about David Pasquarelli supposedly having AIDS? Is she aware that without an HIV+ diagnosis he would simply have meningitis or whatever else falls within the "category" of AIDS defining illnesses?

About the only thing left out of the category by now is a pregnancy diagnosis, of which it would be a stretch even for Cynthia to blame on AIDS. It would not be a surprise though considering past abominations on AIDS in the *B.A.R.* He would surely be chastised for not having been "safe."

Your paper has a long way to go in objectivity, facts, and moral ground regarding this subject.

Jerry McPherson
Oakland, California

Immune dysfunction and anal intercourse

I am a former federally-funded AIDS researcher and an AIDS dissenter. I differ, though, from the AIDS dissidents who receive most of the attention. In fact, I have my criticisms of Peter Duesberg. According to Stephen Epstein, author of *Impure Science*, in 1988 Duesberg was willing to discuss the possible role of anal sex in AIDS. Duesberg told the *Oakland Tribune*: "I think we are dealing with an environmental lifestyle disease that has hit drug users, hemophiliacs, and some gay communities the hardest. The trauma of anal intercourse could also be a factor. They could have used too many drugs, been too promiscuous, or had their immune systems weakened by venereal diseases, foreign antigens and antibiotics."

Epstein reports that such statements by Duesberg earned him severe criticism in the gay press. "Duesberg lost any chance of sustaining large-scale support in gay communities," Epstein wrote. He continued: "By February 1988, negative articles about Duesberg began to appear, including the [*Village*] *Voice* article, written by medical reporter Ann Fettner, called 'Dealing with Duesberg: Bad Science Makes Strange Bedfellows.' Duesberg's view on causation, Fettner wrote, constituted 'a stunning regression to 1982, when everything under the sun, and gay practices in particular, were being blamed for the outbreak of the disease.'"

Duesberg has since dropped all consideration of anal intercourse as a factor and adopted the view that recreational and pharmaceutical drugs are the true causes of AIDS. Epstein's information raises many questions. Is Duesberg a scientist or a politician? Why should a scientist care about sustaining "large-scale support in gay communities"? Did Duesberg change his line and commit self-censorship on the anal intercourse issue in order to placate the gay community?

Outside of the HIV=AIDS tradition, there is a considerable body of scientific opinion that the direct entry of semen into the bloodstream is a risk factor for immune dysfunction. References are available at my own AIDS dissent Web site http://members.aol.com/mpwright9/aids.html.

next page ▶

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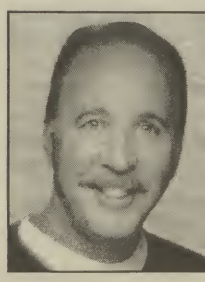


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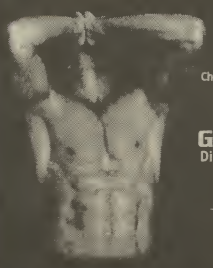


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I know nothing of Pasquarelli's personal history of health risk behaviors, but I urge that my information be considered before celebrating his hospitalization as a victory for the view that HIV causes AIDS.

Michael P. Wright
Norman, Oklahoma

Get well soon

While cryptococcal meningitis may be an AIDS-related condition, it is not an AIDS condition. Other people come down with CM that have not been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. It's just another opportunistic infection. According to your article "5 to 8 percent of patients with AIDS developed cryptococcal infection." That is a very low number. It is no more an AIDS condition than hepatitis or candida. Please remember, not all of your readers believe HIV=AIDS. I don't and I haven't for the past nine years. I read the writings of Peter Duesberg years ago. Professor Duesberg lost his federal funding because of his beliefs. I admire ACT UP/SF and I admire Professor Duesberg for standing up for what they believe in. Hope you feel better soon, David.

Denise Jameson
San Francisco

The usual slant

The article appearing in *B.A.R.*, written by Cynthia Laird for May 2, "AIDS denialist in hospital w/AIDS condition," represented the usual slanted characterization of the "facts" often regurgitated by an uncritical gay media regarding the dissident scientific and alternative health (which has long questioned the virus/germ theory) approaches to what is called HIV/AIDS.

How ironic that the gay media and communal institutions, funded in part on the backs of those lives and loves sero-discordantly scapegoated, which at one time had to transform itself in thinking outside the box in terms of love-making and inheritance-giving and in challenging a conventional medical orthodoxy which classified homosexuality as a psychiatric disorder until the mid 1970s – would now give complete deference to the conventional or straight standards of care and contagion; presented as the one, true hypothesis whereby all those who dissent from it are branded as the heretics of health, disbelievers, denialists of the ultimate faith. Diversity within our community is tolerated, even encouraged, as long as it is same-sexually affirming, except that is, on the sacrosanct subject of AIDS.

All of the 29 previously known and unrelated AIDS clinically redefined illnesses occur in those who diagnosed HIV-negative and all have well documented causes and treatments unrelated to HIV or AIDS. The article quotes from the AIDS apologist Web site, HIV InSite, heavily funded by the pharmaceutical industry. Did you read the April issue of *Alternative Medicine* magazine with the investigative piece, "AIDS: Myth or Medicine?" Did you know that Galileo and Dr. Evelyn Hooker were dissidents, dissenting from the dominant, conventional scientific establishment?

Did you know that scurvy was thought to be caused by a microbe for 200 years, with the implication a "bug" was homosexually transmitted by Seamen through "buggary?" Did you investigate the fact that a number of mismanaged epidemics have later been determined to be misdiagnosed endemics? Forty to 60 percent of Americans use some form of alternative medicine, including gay and lesbian Americans, whose health care and philosophy you have essentially labeled as quacks? (Many often disconnect the alternative theories in how alternative medicine authentically diagnoses as well as treats illness from an alternative paradigm. They treat underlying causes to symptoms multi-factorially, not syndromes based on an extrapolated drug model.)

And finally, why will you continue to accept the anacdotalist reports of the so-called Lazarus effect for the highly toxic and experimental chemo-cocktails without any, not one, completed phase III clinical trial showing a statistically significant reduction in morbidity or mortality – while mischaracterizing the deaths of a vast majority of those misdiagnosed with "AIDS" from the "wonder drugs?"

Kelly Jon Landis
Santa Monica, California

Human rights for all

Was it James Martin's hatred for the Muslims that prompted him to write that if Muslims ever get in control, all gay and lesbians "would be beheaded" or did he just want to insult a group of people *[Mailstrom, May 2]*? Why stop there; let's add a few more scary scenarios. Like if the Muslims ever get in control no woman would ever leave her house or be able to show her face in public. Or better, if the Muslims ever get in control, they will kill anyone who will not pray and obey their "God." My only other response to him would be to read the Reverend Cromey's letter "Someone to hate" in the same *B.A.R.* issue. Thank you, Reverend Cromey, for your beautiful words.

I would also like to point out the fact to Mr. Martin that while gay and lesbian rights are one of the human rights that should be protected, there are other rights that people are fighting for which in their eyes and values hold more importance. These would include the rights such as the right to live, the right to protect your children, the right to walk out freely without dodging bullets, and the right to grow crops on their lands so they can eat. I am pretty proud of being gay. But what the outside world sees of being gay these days is a hedonistic following of body culture and an endless pursuit of sensory pleasures. So if the Palestinians, the Bosnians, the Croatians, the Kashmiris, the Afghans, the Somalis, and some of the other billions of oppressed people around the world forget to mention gay and lesbian rights, they probably are too busy wondering about where their next meal is coming from.

Shawn Saeed
San Francisco

Rally 'round the hate monger

James Martin wrote in last week's *B.A.R.* that the April 20 march for peace held in Dolores Park was "scary." He noted that the speakers never mentioned gays and lesbians when speaking about the oppressed peoples in the world. Giving him the benefit of the doubt, let's say they were not mentioned, what point is he trying to make? The focus of the march was to show solidarity with the Palestinian people and to speak out against the war on terrorism.

Martin ends his letter by saying "Face it: If Muslims ever get in control, we would be beheaded." Well Mr. Martin, the thing that scares me is you and your narrow-minded racist opinions. You are obviously as enlightened and as well read on the subject of Islam as our fearless leader. What do you really know about Islamic culture aside from what our biased media spoon feed you? It's a bit ironic that you are so concerned that gays and lesbians are mentioned as one of the oppressed people in the world and yet with your words you villanize one billion Muslims. In our own country, land of Judeo-Christian values, they don't behead us, this is true. They simply torture, beat us, and then leave us to die like they did to Matthew Shepard.

Vince Pietromartire
San Francisco

GLAAD's mission

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation has a solid history of ensuring fair and accurate inclusion of LGBT people in mainstream media. As the newest member of GLAAD's regional media team, this is one of the things that drew me to this work. In her recent column *["Changing the channel on GLAAD," Lesbian Notions, April 25]*, Paula Martinac discussed some recurring misconceptions about our organization. As our community receives more coverage, it is important to understand what GLAAD does.

GLAAD's mission is to engage those who produce defamatory images and try to facilitate fair and accurate ones because we firmly believe that representation can affect LGBT people's reality. The nature of this work means we often must make concrete decisions about complicated situations. However difficult this may be, GLAAD is committed to taking a clear stand when lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people are the target of homophobic diatribes or are omitted from news coverage. For example, coverage of our community was largely absent post-9/11, aside from Jerry Falwell blaming us for the attacks, and GLAAD worked hard to ensure our stories were told.

Make no mistake, from its inception our work has been about increasing voices and enriching dialogue, not stifling it. When GLAAD takes a position on an issue it does not preclude other LGBT people from doing so. Our values and work are rooted in a deep appreciation for the diversity within our community, and we would never presume to speak for everyone. In fact, at this very moment, we are trying to find volunteers for our monitor and mobilization program who will monitor the media in their area and work with us to respond. The key here is more voices, not fewer.

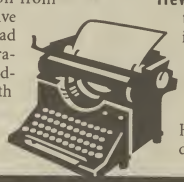
Monitoring and holding the media accountable seems more urgent these past few months as the LGBT community is vilified by certain cardinals, columnists, and pundits who accuse us of being "disordered" and more prone to committing child sexual abuse. In this case, GLAAD works with the media to improve coverage and refers reporters to other members of the community – such as Dignity, the largest national gay Catholics group – who are experts.

Our community has seen enormous gains in media visibility, but at GLAAD we know there is a lot of progress still to be made. The best way to ensure that progress is to engage – engage in the discussion, engage in volunteering, engage with us to ensure an increase of images and voices in the media and in our movement. Please contact me directly (at taylor@glaad.org) to learn more about volunteering for GLAAD.

Sabrina Taylor
Southwestern Regional Media Manager
GLAAD

Oracle contract is a problem for Davis

by Wayne Friday



Our Man Friday

The political storm swirling around Oracle, the software giant, and the deal the company signed with the Davis administration might just be what the **Bill Simon** for governor campaign was looking for to put the Democratic incumbent at least temporarily on the political defensive.

Heads were rolling in Sacramento last week amid charges that Governor **Gray Davis** accepted campaign contributions from Oracle executives – a Davis staffer apparently accepted a $25,000 campaign contribution from an Oracle representative a week after the state had signed the deal with Oracle, a deal that supposedly saddled the state with potentially millions of dollars in unneeded software. Politics as usual, some would say. Perhaps. Davis has long been known as a shameless campaign fundraiser, particularly when it comes to his own contests. Then again, it's done all the time – nothing wrong with asking for contributions I assume – as long as they aren't quid pro quo. Even Davis's closest and most loyal supporters will admit that like too many other top politicos of both parties, a seat at the Davis policy table usually comes with a price tag, usually in the form of a contribution to his campaign.

The Oracle contract has been described by more than one Sacramento observer as being overpriced, ineptly negotiated, and could end up costing state taxpayers millions in waste over a decade. To his credit, Davis, upon learning of the Oracle scandal, quickly fired his chief technology officer, and it should also be said that despite all the surrounding controversy, and the determination of the Simon campaign to make political hay out of the mini-scandal, it remains, apparently, one of incompetence and not illegal actions.

Spokespersons for both Davis and Attorney General **Bill Lockyer** (who has himself accepted political contributions from Oracle) say they will be aggressive in the investigation, and the resignations and suspensions are an encouraging sign that people are being personally held responsible. The Joint Legislative Audit Committee, headed by Democrats, is continuing to do a vigorous investigation into what went wrong, and, thankfully, Oracle said it is willing to rescind the costly contract and offer Davis and the state an opportunity to negotiate a new, and hopefully, more cost effective one.

Will this scandal hurt Davis's re-election chances in November? As the *Chronicle*'s **Matier & Ross** column put it, "That Oracle debacle sure smells bad for Davis now, but his brain trust is betting that the voters will be short on memory, and long on cynicism, when November rolls around." I would agree. If Davis had **Richard Riordan** instead of the ultra-conservative Simon as his November opponent, it might be a different story. Fortunately for Davis, the governor has the issues – abortion, gay rights, campaign finance, and Simon's refusal to release his personal tax records – on his side; Simon, a far-right ideologue, has the backing of a very conservative GOP party machinery and a hesitant White House on his.

This campaign is still Davis's to lose, but a couple of more smelly debacles like Oracle could go a long way to helping Davis blow it in November. Meanwhile, three days after the governor sacked **Barry Keene**, the state's director of General Services for his role in negotiating the Oracle contract last year, Davis appointed an old friend of mine, **Clothilde "Cloey" Hewlett**, a former assistant district attorney in San Francisco and a two-term police commissioner, to take over the Department of General Services. Hewlett had been undersecretary of the state's Consumer Services Agency, which oversees 12 state departments, and is one of the brightest people I know.

Politics and people

Here's one you will not want to miss: Board of Supervisors President **Tom Ammiano** will address the regular meeting of the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Democratic Club this Monday, May 13, at 7 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center on Market Street. Ammiano, a sure candidate for mayor next year, apparently feels it's time to mend some political fences within the community, but to be fair, the invitation was extended by Alice Co-chair **Theresa Sparks**. Ammiano told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he was "looking forward" to meeting Alice members and "mending some fences" with a club that successfully backed **Mark Leno** for Assembly in March over **Harry Britt**, the choice of both Ammiano and the Harvey Milk LGBT Demo Club. Could be an interesting meeting.

Supervisor Mark Leno has made no secret of the fact that he will endorse BART director **Tom Radulovich** as his replacement on the Board of Supervisors in District 8. Leno, a soon-to-be Assembly member and one of the really good guys in local politics, tells me that "there are a couple of good candidates in the race, but I'm backing Tom."

One of those other "good candidates," incidentally, has to be **Bevan Dufty**, who, like Radulovich, would be an excellent supervisor to replace Leno.

Ward Connerly, the author of the anti-affirmation action Proposition 209, is at it again, this time with a proposed ballot measure that would bar the state from classifying people by race or collecting data relating to race or ethnicity. Connerly says his goal is a "colorblind" society, and he wants the state to stop putting people in "artificial boxes." Connerly has collected upwards of a million signatures, but it's unclear whether the measure will appear on the November ballot or go before voters next March.

The former student body president at the University of Idaho in Lewiston has been charged with trying to burn a flag stolen from a gay campus club. **Kasey Swisher**, 21, faces a maximum year in jail and a $1,000 fine on a charge of malicious injury to property. Court documents say Swisher told police he participated March 31 in the attempted burning of the gay-straight alliance flag, then jumped on the flame-resistant flag when it would not burn. Police said students charged in the incident considered the club's rainbow flag a desecration of the American flag. The flag resembles the U.S. flag, but has six colors to represent diversity instead of 13 red and white stripes.

They toast 'em in Bush country: Texas looks likely to become the nation's death penalty capital again this year. Seven prisoners are scheduled to be executed this month in the Lone Star State with 14 more scheduled through July. Ten of the 23 U.S. executions so far this year were in Texas; in 2000, the year **George W. Bush** was (s)elected president, Texas had a record 40 executions, and **Larry Fitzgerald**, public information officer for the state Department of Criminal Justice, quipped this week that "this is going to be a pretty busy year as far as executions in Texas go."

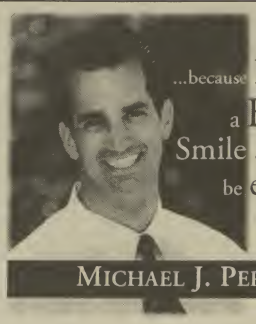
Incidentally, George W. Bush celebrated the Cinco de Mayo holiday this year by following his regular Saturday radio broadcast with a Spanish translation of the message. At the same time, the Republican National Committee was scheduled to announce plans for a new effort to reach out to Latino voters. The 2000 census revealed that Latinos numbered 35.3 million the U.S. and made up 12.5 percent of the population, a 60 percent increase over a decade earlier; Bush received 35 percent of the Latino vote in the 2000 presidential election. Democratic National Committee head **Terry McAuliffe** discounted the GOP "outreach" to Latino's by saying, "The sad truth is that the Republicans' idea of Latino outreach is sprinkling a few words in Spanish during a staged White House photo-op surrounded by a few Hispanic leaders and lots of food."

Most California political observers say that Dubya's recent California visit on behalf of GOP gubernatorial nominee Bill Simon did indeed raise badly needed campaign funds ($4.5 million) but that the trip actually shone the spotlight more brightly on Bush than on Simon. During the two-day foray in California, Bush appeared publicly several times with Simon, but on each day Bush preceded the Simon appearances with a major event that was sure to capture media attention and draw focus away from the candidate, heightening the feeling that the Bush-Rove White House has little optimism that Simon can win the race against Davis.

And even the most optimistic California GOP leader will tell you that state Senator **Dick Ackerman** (R-Irvine) has next to no chance of unseating Attorney General Bill Lockyer; the incumbent AG is sitting on a $4.9 million war chest while Ackerman reportedly has somewhere around $100,000 in the bank.

Former President **Bill Clinton** in Los Angeles tonight (May 9) for a black-tie dinner ($125 to

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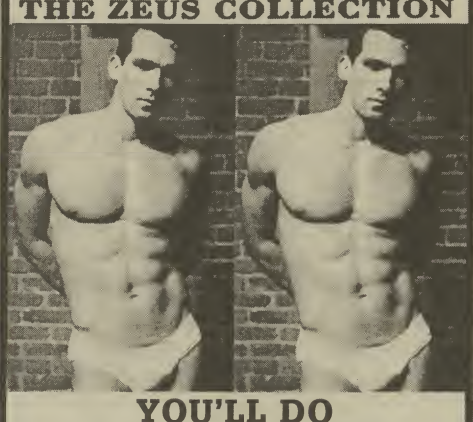
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I wasn't born gay

by Paula Martinac

ABC's *Nightline* promises that its upcoming series, "A Matter of Choice?", will explore "the complexities of gay and lesbian experience" from seniors to teenagers. The series' title alone has provoked defensiveness from the gay and lesbian community. For about a decade, after all, the gay party line has been to respond to questions about what "causes" homosexuality with "We're born that way" and "It's not a choice." But by invoking biology to achieve equal rights for gay people, we've also oversimplified sexuality, particularly that of lesbians.



Lesbian Notions

When I came out 20 years ago, hardly anyone talked about being "born" gay, which seemed like a throwback to *The Well of Loneliness* and the sexual "inversion" theories of the early 20th century. One woman in my circle of lesbian acquaintances did claim she'd been gay from the age of 5, but the rest of us thought she was crazy. We did, however, review our adolescence for "signs" of our lesbianism: "I had a crush on my best friend, Jenny, in eighth grade" or "My mom had to force me to wear dresses."

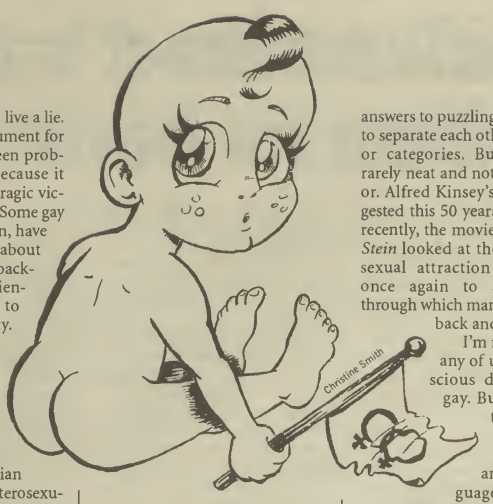
Then, after Dr. Simon LeVay published his 1991 study on the possible biological origins of sexual orientation – the famous "gay brain" – the rhetoric of "born that way" surfaced in the gay movement as the primary way to explain why gays deserve equality under the law. It was, to many gay activists, a nifty argument: If there are genetic origins to homosexuality, the reasoning went, we shouldn't be denied our civil rights; after all, we can't help being gay, any more than blacks can choose their skin color. "Born that way" also comforted a lot of gay people, especially men, by providing an explanation for the feelings of difference they'd experienced since childhood.

Today, "born that way" is an integral part of gay politics and culture. Gay writer Eric Marcus's 1993 book, *Is It a Choice?* – which answers questions that straight and gay people alike have about homosexuality, including the provocative title one – is often used by gay youth services, support groups for parents of gays, organizations promoting tolerance of difference, and even college professors. Marcus echoes the mantra of "born that way": "Most people who live a gay or lesbian life do not have a true choice between a same-gender and opposite-gender partner," he writes, although bisexuals have "the option of choosing."

Indeed, according to the most prominent gay spokespeople and organizations, the only "choice" we have is the choice to be true to our homosexuality or to live a lie. But the "no-choice" argument for gay rights has always been problematic, and not just because it makes us seem like the tragic victims of genetic bad luck. Some gay people, with good reason, have worried that all the talk about genetics will eventually backfire on us, leading to scientific inquiry into a way to eliminate homosexuality. Most important, though, "born that way" is an inaccurate representation of the experiences of all gay people, particularly lesbians.

It's hard to find a lesbian without some sort of heterosexual past. I know plenty of self-identified lesbians, myself included, who were once in love with men, and not unhappily so. In her second *Primetime Thursday* interview with Diane Sawyer, even newly out Rosie O'Donnell admitted to a positive sexual relationship – at age 29 – with a man. "Isn't that a contradiction?" Sawyer wondered, her face crinkling with confusion – suggesting that Sawyer, too, has incorporated "born that way" into her thinking.

There are also stories of lesbians who have been out for decades and then find themselves in love with men – sex guru JoAnn Loulan, for example, or writer Jan Clausen. Many more stories involve lesbians who aren't famous. Most recently, one of my best lesbian friends fell hard for a man, after she ended a six-year relationship with a woman. What are we to make of her experience and that of many other lesbians if we insist that "we're born that way"?



Probably a number of gay people – men in particular – would dismiss my friend's experience by saying she was never really a lesbian, but I'd have to disagree. It's unfortunate that many people, gay and straight, tend to look for neat answers to puzzling questions and to separate each other into either-or categories. But sexuality is rarely neat and not always either-or. Alfred Kinsey's research suggested this 50 years ago. And just recently, the movie *Kissing Jessica Stein* looked at the messiness of sexual attraction and pointed once again to a continuum through which many people move back and forth.

I'm not saying that any of us made a conscious decision to be gay. But I am saying that the gay community needs to balance out its language of biological determinism with an acknowledgment and acceptance of the subtleties of sexuality, especially women's, which are wiped out by the "born-that-way" canon. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of seven books. She can be reached care of this publication or at LNcolumn@aol.com.

Gay author brings workshops to Bay Area

by Joe Dignan

Author, social thinker, and workshop leader Dave Nimmons thinks that gay men have managed some amazing cultural innovations in America. They are, he said, the least violent, most generous, most caring male culture he can point to. He said gays are "a spiritual brotherhood," akin only to the priesthood.

But, he said, gay men have also developed patterns of behavior that work against them and weaken their sense of community. He points, as an example, to the way they make, and avoid, eye contact.

"Gay men have evolved a really complicated grammar of the eyes, to flirt, to seduce," he said. "We developed it as a sexual mechanism. It has evolved into something, where you don't meet someone's eyes because you don't want to lead them on. So you have a whole street or bar full of eyes, not meeting, and it seems really distant and cold."

Nimmons, who is openly gay, has written a book, *The Soul Beneath the Skin*, to be published in May by St. Martin's, which explains the concepts in detail. He will be leading a series of workshops and discussions in the Bay Area in the next couple of weeks.

"Why have we created a set of habits that actually hurts us?" he asked, and he then goes on to offer interventions which, he said, help solve the problems.

He calls these interventions "loving disturbances" and cited an example, again involving eye contact. "We would send out 12 guys to a cafe, and their work was to practice meeting gay men's eyes in friendship," he said.

"What we got was an extraordinary set of interactions. People who I haven't seen for years invited me to have coffee at their table. So the idea of this loving disturbance is that we can intervene in our cultural patterns. We can act differently with each other and create the culture of love and intimacy that we want with each other."

He is planning one of these disturbances on Saturday evening, May 18, after a workshop at the Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco.

He asks that people "don't confuse this with some human potential weekend. What I'm saying is that our culture is going to be different if you want to be part of changing it."

On Saturday, May 18, Nimmons will be at the Metropolitan Community Church leading a one-day Manifest Love introduction from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The loving disturbance will be planned as part of this workshop and will happen immediately afterwards. MCC-SF is at 150 Eureka Street (between 18th and 19th) in the Castro. For more information, call (415) 863-4434.

He will sign books and speak at three locations: on Tuesday, May 14 at 7:30 p.m. at A Different Light bookstore, 489 Castro Street; on Wednesday, May 15 at 8 p.m. at MCC-SF; and on Thursday, May 16, at 7 p.m. at the Stanford University bookstore.

He will speak at a brown-bag lunch at Pacific School of Religion at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 16. Pacific School of Religion is at 1798 Scenic Avenue, Berkeley. For information, call (510) 849-8206.

On Friday, May 17, at 7 p.m. he will give a salon presentation of the concepts in his book at 981 Haight Street. Reservations are a must for this event. Contact Dr. Kirk Prine at (415) 552-7417.

On Wednesday, May 22 from 7-9:30 p.m. he will lead a shorter Manifest Love seminar and attend a reception and book signing sponsored in part by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street, at Octavia. For information, call (415) 788-LIFE or go to www.gaylife.org. Reservations are suggested.

All events are free. ▼

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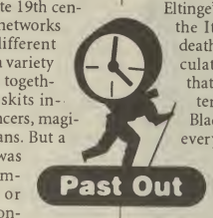
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Who were the great female impersonators of vaudeville?

by Paula Martinac

May 14, 1883 (119 years ago this month): Vaudeville's foremost female impersonator, Julian Eltinge, is born in Newtonville, Massachusetts.

Before the rise of radio and movies, vaudeville was the most popular form of mass entertainment in the United States. From the late 19th century to the 1920s, networks of theaters in different cities would book a variety of acts that toured together as a show. The skits included singers, dancers, magicians, and comedians. But a vaudeville show was considered incomplete without one or two female impersonators, the most successful of whom were gay men.



Probably the greatest female impersonator of the vaudeville era was Julian Eltinge (1883-1941), born William Julian Dalton near Boston. He first entertained in drag at age 10, when he appeared in a local musical revue. Eltinge went on the vaudeville circuit in 1906, wowing audiences with a sketch called "The Sampson Girl" – based on the Gibson Girl, a willowy, ultrafeminine vision of American womanhood made popular by magazine illustrator Charles Dana Gibson. Eltinge was known for his choice of tasteful, fashionable attire and for including in his repertoire ideal types like "The Bathing Beauty," "The Bride," and "The Little Girl." He also occasionally portrayed historical figures like Salome.

By 1912, Eltinge was the highest paid act in vaudeville, earning $1,600 a week; that same year, a Broadway producer named a theater on New York's 42nd Street in his honor (it's now part of a multiplex called the Empire). Critics and audiences alike were mesmerized by his ability to walk, speak, and sing so convincingly like a woman. While other female impersonators simply parodied women, Eltinge attempted to transform himself. In a 1909 interview, he disclosed that it took him two hours to "become" a woman. "It depends on where you put the paint," he explained, "not how much you splash on." Before each performance, Eltinge's Japanese male dresser corseted his normally 38-inch waist to a svelte 24 inches.

The RuPaul of his day, Eltinge endorsed women's cosmetics and corsets and even had his own brand of cold cream. His vaudeville fame also brought him roles in the legitimate theater and in 15 Hollywood movies. One of these films, *An Adventuress* (1916; later reissued as *The Isle of Love*), starred Rudolph Valentino, who was rumored to have been Eltinge's offscreen lover. After the Italian star's untimely death in 1926, rumors circulated in the drag world that Eltinge was the mysterious veiled Lady in Black who brought roses every year to Valentino's grave.

Eltinge, however, always denied insinuations about his sexuality. "I just like pearls," he explained of his cross-dressing penchant. To compensate for gossip – which was fueled by the fact that he lived with his mother and never married – Eltinge purposely butched it up offstage. He was known for getting into fistfights, beating up stagehands and fellow vaudevillians who dared to question his masculinity.

With the end of the vaudeville era, Eltinge's career and fortune slipped into decline. Before his death from a cerebral hemorrhage in 1941, he suffered from numerous health problems related to his career, including kidney ailments caused by years of being cinched into tight corsets.

Second only to Eltinge in the vaudeville world was Bert Savoy (1888-1923), who was born Everett McKenzie in Boston. Savoy got his start singing in a chorus, then launched his solo drag career in the saloons of the West. In the 1910s, he came back east and teamed up professionally and privately with handsome Jay Brennan (1882-1961), who had once been a female impersonator, too, but now took the role of Savoy's "straight" man.

Unlike the prim, proper "Sampson Girl," Savoy's drag persona – although as elegantly attired as Eltinge's – was an over-the-top character who flirted outrageously, shook her hips, and dished the dirt. Drag lore has it that Mae West borrowed Savoy's walk and adapted one of his coquettish lines – "You *must* come over!" – to her signature "Come over and see me some time." Savoy credited much of his success to his ability to listen to and learn from his female fans. "They write or telephone me with little feminine things," he once said, explaining that he often turned the women's ideas into naughty gags for his act.


Julian Eltinge

Probably because he was as effeminate offstage as on – he camped it up and always referred to men as "she" – Savoy entered briefly into a marriage of convenience to hide his homosexuality. The marriage ended in 1922, however, when the woman emptied out their bank account and left town.

The following year, at the pinnacle of his fame, Savoy was killed by lightning in a freak accident on a New York beach. Legend has it that, immediately before being struck, Savoy heard a clap of thunder and exclaimed to Brennan and their companions, "Mercy, ain't Miss God cuttin' up something awful!" The next day, Harpo Marx was said to have recalled, "All the pansies at Coney Island were wearing lightning rods." ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of seven books, including *The Queerest Places: A Guide to Gay and Lesbian Historic Sites*. She can be reached care of this publication or at POcolumn@aol.com.

Suggested reading

Moore, F. Michael. 1994. *Drag! Male and Female Impersonators on Stage, Screen, and Television: An Illustrated History*. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland & Co.

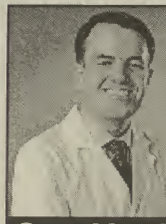
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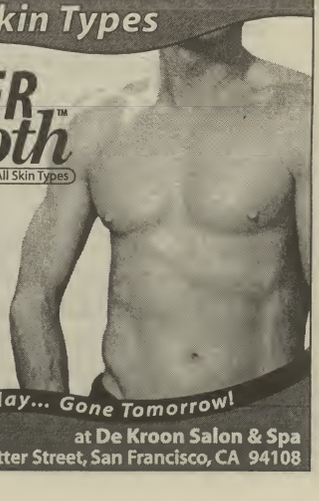


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Local young lesbian honored for battling homophobia

by Zak Szymanski

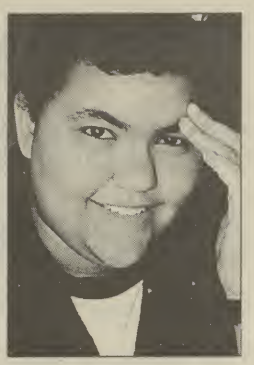
This Saturday, May 11, in a private ceremony, four ordinary people from across the country will be honored for doing extraordinary things in the face of bigotry to promote tolerance and queer rights. One of those people is 17-year-old Vanessa Duran, a mixed-race lesbian activist and filmmaker from the East Bay.

Duran and others will receive the "Courage Award," given annually by the Colin Higgins Foundation, named for and established by the acclaimed late screenwriter and director. Courage Awards – which include a $10,000 prize for recipients – are given to individuals who have endured overwhelming hostility and hate, yet have handled themselves with grace as they educate and enlighten others about the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender experience.

Duran, whose biggest challenge these days is having enough time to do everything, came out at the age of 15, battling homophobia as well as racism, sexism, and sizeism. An African American and Latina lesbian, she is the co-president of Berkeley High School's gay-straight alliance, a board member and youth council member of the Gay-Straight Alliance Network, a steering committee member and speaker for Overcoming Homophobia Meeting For Youth, a program facilitator and the youngest member of the speakers' bureau at the Pacific Center for Human Growth, and an intern and photography instructor for Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center.

She is also a video editor, has appeared in films about queer youth issues, and will soon be taking over the arts and media position for Free Zone, an arts for social change program for LGBT and straight ally youth at LYRIC. Her recent film project, *As If It Matters,* co-produced with eight other young people, recently won a Golden Gate Award from the San Francisco International Film Festival.

"Vanessa blends activism seamlessly with her work in film, video, and photography to create powerful documentary and narrative pieces that deal with issues of identity, body image, racism, homophobia, and relationships," said a statement from the Colin Higgins Foundation.



Award winner Vanessa Duran

Other honorees include: Missouri resident D. Patrick Bynum, 15, who at the age of 12 asked his local school board for protections from beatings and harassment, eventually filing a complaint with the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights; Eva Leivas-Andino, the Miami mother of a gay son who is a full-time advocate for LGBT youth; and Calvin Warren, 21, a gay rights activist who endured regular threats from people at his church and neighbors in Newburgh, New York.

Duran, who spoke with the *Bay Area Reporter* earlier this week, said her own harassment was "nothing I couldn't handle ... but there are so many issues to deal with both in and out of the queer community."

As for her award, Duran said it is "really exciting."

"On Saturday I will probably have a heart attack," she said, "but to this day it hasn't yet set in." ▼

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sf aids foundation GAY LIFE EVENTS

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Our Man Friday

◀ page 9

$2,000) honoring longtime African Methodist Episcopal Bishop **H.H. Brookins**, and the dinner chairperson is the recently politically motivated **Magic Johnson** (yes, he's a Democrat).

Political analysts from both major parties hope that the number of women in Congress – now 60 in the House and 13 in the Senate – might rise, if by only a handful, but others fear the numbers could indeed drop after the November election.

Incidentally, women are gaining important leadership posts in major unions. The three top entertainment unions in Hollywood – the Directors Guild of America, the Writers Guild of America, and the Screen Actors Guild – all have women presidents. The three women, **Martha Coolidge**, **Vicki Riskin**, and **Melissa Gilbert** together represent 12,000 directors, 8,500 writers, and 98,000 actors, the majority of Hollywood's talent pool.

And in the Bay Area the top three of the five BART unions are also headed by women presidents.

"Quote of the week" (from Maine GOP Senator **Susan Collins**, on the recent Senate committee approval of a bill prohibiting job discrimination based on sexual orientation). Collins: "To do this is not to create a special right for gay men and lesbians, but to end discrimination against them, as we have done for others."

And how was your week? ▼

(Got a political tip? E-mail WayneFridaySF@aol.com.)

AIDS heroes honored – will lead vigil next Sun.

by Zak Szymanski

This year's AIDS Hero Awards, presented by the AIDS Candlelight Vigil Committee to recognize people and groups who have made significant contributions in the fight against AIDS, went to eight individuals and one organization, all of whom will lead the annual AIDS Candlelight march from the Castro at 8 p.m. on Sunday, May 19.

Health workers, a minister, fundraisers, activists, and volunteers were among those honored with awards last Thursday, May 2 at the LGBT Community Center.

Cecilia Chung, a transgender woman and Chinese immigrant, received the Joan Baker Award. Chung works at the Tom Waddell Health Center, is a past president of the Pride Committee, is a board member of the Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness Center, serves on the HIV Health Services Planning Council, and is an HIV writer for Gay.com.

Dr. Robert Frascino received the Bobbi Campbell Award for his work in medicine as well as his talent as a classical pianist. He has raised more than $325,000 for AIDS efforts through his performances.

The Reverend Jim Mitulski received the Tomas Fabregas Award for his many years of service to the AIDS community during his tenure as pastor at Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco. Mitulski is currently the executive director of Rainbow Adult Community Housing and serves as co-chair of the HIV Health Services Planning Council.

David Slocumb and Jeanne Englehard received the Miriam Farooq Award for their volunteer work with the AIDS Emergency Fund.

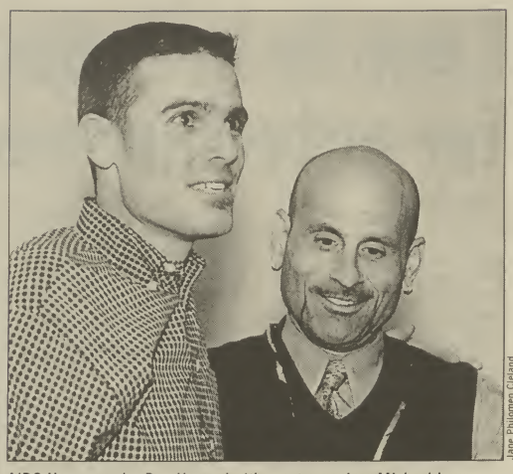
Steven Tierney, Ph.D., received the John Lorenzini Award for his activism and prevention work, which includes the opening of San Francisco's Dimensions Clinic for LGBT youth. Tierney is currently the HIV prevention director for the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

Don Howard received the Terry Sutton Award for his early involvement with ACT UP/Golden Gate (now Survive AIDS), his founding of the community advisory board at San Francisco General Hospital, and his work on the new Castroguys project, which aims to bring a health promotion center to the neighborhood.

World-famous musician Blackberri received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his work with the Black Brothers Esteem Project at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and other groups for gay men of color. He currently works at the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center.

And SFAF's HIV Prevention Project, which has provided street-based needle and syringe exchange services to injection drug users since 1988, received the Brownie Mary Award.

The 2002 AIDS heroes, and others touched by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, will gather on May 19 at Castro and Market streets at 8 p.m. for the annual AIDS Candlelight Vigil, which has taken place in over 1,500 villages and cities in more than 85 countries. The vigil began in San Francisco and New York in 1983 and has become the world's largest annual grassroots event. ▼



Jane Philomen Cleland

AIDS Hero awardee Don Howard with event organizer Michael Lauro

TG minister at MCC-SF Sunday

by Joe Dignan

On October 22, 1996, the Reverend Erin Swenson stood on the dais in front of the hushed crowd packed into the pews of the Shallowford Presbyterian Church in Atlanta. She was there to ask the group, the local presbytery – representatives from all the churches in the area – to allow her to keep working as a minister, but with a new name.

"It was the epitome of what I had dreaded my whole life," Swenson said.

Swenson, the father of two boys, had been ordained 23 years before as Eric Swenson. Six months before, she had had sex reassignment surgery. A year before that she had started living as a woman.

"There were so many people just struggling to understand how I could come before them and discuss this issue," Swenson said. "There were those who were steadfast with me, and there were those who were clueless. There were some pretty hostile questions."

The crowd in the church that day, Swenson said, numbered about 500. When she wasn't answering questions, she sat with her father.

"I had so many mixed up feelings," Swenson said. "It was amazing to me that I could do that. I had been certain that if anyone else found out what was going on with me, I'd be quick to check out. I wasn't sure I could stand in front of them and talk of my gender issues."

That was six years ago. The vote was 186-161.

Now, Swenson is the only ordained transsexual minister in the Presbyterian Church and is the parish associate at the Ormewood Park Presbyterian Church in Atlanta.

Swenson will be in the Bay Area this week leading a series of events culminating in a celebration this Sunday evening at Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco.



Reverend Erin Swenson

An all-transsexual gospel group, the Transcendence Gospel Choir, will sing with MCC's choir.

"It's going to be a celebration of gender identity," Swenson said. "I'm going to be preaching about a story in Acts 8. It states very clearly that the intention of the gospel is not to look at people as perfect or imperfect but to see all of us as complete and whole in God's eyes."

The celebration on Sunday, May 12 at 7 p.m. will be at MCC-SF, 150 Eureka Street (between 18th and 19th) in the Castro. For more information, call (415) 863-4434.

Also on Sunday, May 12 she will lead the 11 a.m. service at the First Presbyterian Church, 1140 Cowper Street in Palo Alto. For information, call (650) 325-5659.

Swenson will speak at a brown-bag "Lavender Luncheon" at 12:30 p.m. today (Thursday, May 9) at the Pacific School of Religion, 1798 Scenic Avenue, Berkeley. For information, call (510) 849-8206

On Friday, May 10, she will lead a series of events at the San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo, starting with a chapel service at 10 a.m., a luncheon at noon, dinner at 6 p.m., and a discussion starting at 7. The seminary is at 2 Kensington Road, San Anselmo. For information call (800) 447-8820.

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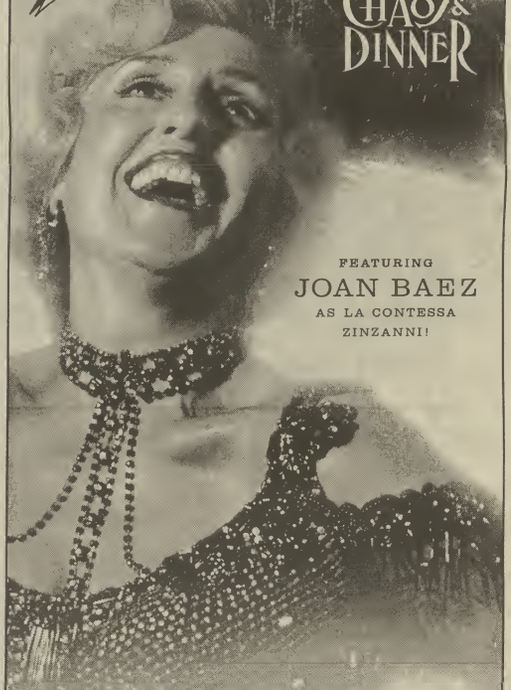


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PHOTOGRAPHY BY JIM KARAGEORGE

Leno to introduce proposal for entertainment commission

by Matthew S. Bajko

For years, the Castro has been home to a free-for-all Halloween bash that has been tolerated but never officially sanctioned. That could all change.

If a proposal being submitted by Supervisor Mark Leno to establish an entertainment commission passes the board and is signed by the mayor, the city for the first time will have a venue to address such unsanctioned street parties like those that occur in the Castro during Halloween and Pride.

"There has never been the recognition that Halloween is an annual event," said Leno.

Due to that lack of oversight by the city, residents and merchants are left to prepare for the influx of a largely straight, suburban crowd each year and the hassles the gathering brings. If implemented, the entertainment commission would provide support in addressing those issues.

"I think it would benefit the city through the funding, the more thoughtful planning, and the additional open debate and engagement from all those who are impacted – merchants and neighbors alike – by the fact of the annual gathering of huge crowds each Halloween," said Leno.

Leno plans to introduce his legislation Monday, May 13. If passed – following committee hearings – the commission would provide a policy body that is dedicated to addressing entertainment-related issues. Its deliberations would be subject to public hearings and notification requirements.

The commission's staff would help facilitate easier access to departmental permits. Such a commission would also remove the permitting process for bars and clubs from the police.

As part of the legislation, all large dance venues would be required to provide the public with cell phone access to management during all operating hours. Instead of calling police as their only option, residents would have another recourse if they have a problem related to a dance venue.

Organized, permitted events could benefit from having a government body whose task it is to oversee everything involved in hosting an event, from working with neighbors to securing various permits from numerous city agencies.

"It's also designed to be user-friendly and will act as an ombuds office coordinating all the different permits that are necessary for any kind of public event, a so-called one-stop shop," explained Leno.

If approved, the legislation would take effect July 1, 2003. San Francisco would join Washington, D.C. as one of the few major cities to have an entertainment commission.

"D.C. is similar to San Francisco in that it is host to a lot of national and international groups that make use of city streets, parks, and plazas," said Leno.

The idea for the commission began in 1999 when Halloween of that year had no agency or community group planning for it. Then in 2000, police began cracking down on clubs in the South of Market District due to complaints from residents who had moved into the area and a rise in suspected GHB overdoses at some venues.

Entertainment advocates then formed their own lobbying efforts to protect the interests of club owners and patrons. And a civil grand jury recently released a report urging the city to establish the commission due to conflicts of interest in the permitting process; ineffective management of health, safety, and neighborhood concerns; and unfair singling out of an industry.

With the endorsement from police to revamp their role in the permit process, Leno and his aides began crafting the legislation. In the last couple of weeks, they have been meeting with city departments and neighborhood groups to gather support for the proposal.

"I am really interested in controlling Halloween, not making it bigger or grander than it already is," said Patrick Batt, president of Merchants of Upper Market and Castro. "My fear with an entertainment commission is people who would want to do amplified music [on Halloween]. I want to make sure an entertainment commission doesn't leave the door open for that to happen."

As chairman of the New Heritage Foundation, the promoter of two Halloween events, Hellball and the March of Light, Jim Lightsey has gotten a first-hand experience working the city's permit system. He said that the entertainment commission would be a welcome change to how the system works now.

"For someone planning an event, essentially you have to go and tell your story and explain your event to numerous city departments. It is a very time consuming process," said Lightsey, president and CEO of emindhealth.com. "It is extremely difficult and challenging to create and produce events given the current hoops you have to run through."

While he said he supports the concept, Lightsey cautioned residents must have an active role on the commission for it to be successful.

"I want to make sure all different constituencies in the city have a voice in the process and that the approval process still makes sure each of the different city services and community groups have a say in it," he said. "If they don't, there is just going to be problems on the other end." ▼

Merchants oppose plan to close 17th St.

by Matthew S. Bajko

A neighborhood group pushing a proposal to close a section of 17th Street in the Castro has failed to gain support from merchants in the area, who say they will oppose any such measure being implemented.

At its May meeting, the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro voted to once again oppose the project endorsed by the Castro Area Planning and Action group. CAPA proposes a trial closure of 17th Street east of Castro at the Muni F Line stop for one year to create a pedestrian safety zone.

When first brought before the merchants a year and a half ago, MUMC voted down the project and asked that detailed traffic studies be done. With no such studies undertaken, and the only major change in the plan involving the elimination of seating areas, the group once again voted to oppose the plan.

"The Merchants of Upper Market and Castro position of about 18 months ago relative to voting against any form of closure to 17th Street still stands," said MUMC President Patrick Batt. "I don't believe they have done their homework on this. I think the mood of our members at the last meeting bore that out.

"I think people are frustrated with them coming to us with this proposal and never having answered any questions."

CAPA contends that traffic calming measures are needed for the intersection and has proposed placing movable curbs there to restrict the flow of automobiles. It estimates it would cost $50,000 for the curbs, signage, and installation.

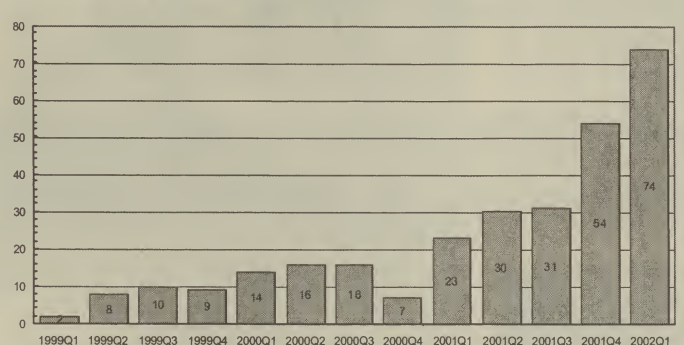
A traffic engineer from the city's Department of Parking and Traffic did do an unofficial traffic count at the intersection. According to CAPA, that study concluded the street closure would not have a significant impact on traffic. Instead of doing a more formal study, CAPA favors a one-year trial period.

"Part of the goal is to gauge what effect that would have not only on pedestrian but on the movement of bicycles and transit," said Joe Curtain, CAPA vice pres-

page 16 ▶

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Reported primary and secondary syphilis cases by quarter, San Francisco, 1999-2002.

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Murder

◀ page 1

in the ignition.

The alleged killer left his fingerprints at the scene. He was soon identified as Brian Misquez. His fingerprints were on file in connection with an arrest record for auto theft. When police arrived at his Antioch apartment, they were told that he had just moved, along with his girlfriend, baby son, and newborn infant daughter. Last July, Misquez was arrested in Oregon where he and his family were staying with his girlfriend's mother. He was charged with murder and is currently in custody in Contra Costa County awaiting trial.

He confessed to police that he killed De Chavez but he said he acted in self-defense. He said he agreed to go to his apartment to help him move. He explained that after he rejected a pass from De Chavez, De Chavez appeared in the kitchen doorway, pulled a knife out of his boxer shorts and demanded Misquez have sex with him. One of Misquez's relatives said that Misquez told her that De Chavez said "If [Misquez] wasn't going to give it to him, he was going to take it."

Misquez said that another person in De Chavez's apartment, whom he identified only as a 22-year-old white male, assisted him in defending himself against De Chavez.

What Misquez didn't know when he apparently concocted his claim of self-defense, is that police would be able to obtain a transcript of the Yahoo! Internet chat discussions between him and De Chavez.

According to the transcript, it was Misquez who initiated a turn in the chat from small talk to sex. When De Chavez mentioned a previous meeting that they had planned, Misquez interrupted: "i'm horny now…"

The pair eventually decided to meet for sex. They agreed upon, in explicit detail, what kind of sex they wanted to have and they both agreed they wanted to kiss.

Misquez has now abandoned his claim of self-defense and his lawyer is hinting that she'll attempt a variation of the "gay panic" defense.

In his preliminary hearing in March, Misquez's public defense attorney, Laurie Mont, said: "You have a young man who has a girlfriend and kids where the girlfriend denies that there could be any homosexual tendencies on his part and yet he is on Internet chat rooms in the wee hours of the morning talking to – in homosexual chat rooms arranging secret meetings."

According to court papers, Misquez's girlfriend said "he didn't like homosexuals."

Mont argued that there wasn't sufficient evidence to justify murder charges and that manslaughter would be the more appropriate charge. Mont argued that the murder was committed in a moment of blind passion, "without malice aforethought."

"In the middle of this act," Mont said, apparently referring to her client having sex with De Chavez, "he feels that – this desperate shame."

According to court documents, Misquez and De Chavez met about a year earlier in a Jack-in-the-Box restaurant. They had arranged to meet another time, but Misquez never showed.

At their conclusion of their final chat, De Chavez wrote: "i hope u won't flake on me this time."

Misquez declined the *Bay Area Reporter*'s requests for an interview.

The trial is scheduled to begin in October. ▼

AIDS cuts

◀ page 1

ther eliminate management of any complex patient (palliative care/home care/infusion therapies) not followed on Ward 86, forcing patients followed by health centers, the Consortium of Community Clinics, the Family and Community Medicine Clinic, and the General Medicine Clinic to make alternative arrangements.

• Prescription refill services will be cut back to reflect the percentage of pharmacist funding.

"These cuts in care are unlikely to be the only service reductions made in response to CARE funding shortfalls," wrote Stansell.

Adding to these agencies' problems is the faltering economy, which has impacted many organizations' ability to fundraise from private sources. Also, funds that had been raised and earmarked for certain programs are now being tapped to fill in budget gaps.

"We are in an era of already tight resources and AIDS donor fatigue. We are moving money from what was funded through private donations to what was previously funded by Ryan White money," said Continuum Executive Director Mark Cloutier, who is the chair of the coalition. "That is okay for the first year. But in the second year it will challenge our ability to provide the same amount of services to those underserved for primary care."

As the HIV planning council begins discussing how to prioritize and allocate CARE Act funds for the coming years, the coalition is lobbying the council not to make further reductions in primary care funding.

"The Ryan White CARE Act is very clear about the intended uses of the money for both primary care and underserved populations," said Cloutier. "The need for these services far exceeds what we are able to provide with the funding we have now."

If primary care is not held harmless, Cloutier said it could result in the implementation of

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Assassination

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dicted that Fortuyn was on course to gain 20 percent of the votes in next week's general election and was a possible partner in a center-right coalition with Liberals and Christian Democrats.

The very future existence of the party is now uncertain, analysts said. It is the first time in Dutch history that a major political figure has been assassinated.

Observers were uncertain what effect Fortuyn's death would have on the election. Some speculated a broad sympathy vote for Fortuyn's party, while others said the party had no ideology and no leader to hold it together with Fortuyn dead.

Dutch Labor Party leader Ad Melkert described the shooting as a "low point for our democracy," and added, "These are things you thought were just not possible in the Netherlands."

Kok also expressed his disgust at the killing. "This is deeply tragic, first of all for him [Fortuyn] and for all his loved ones. It is also deeply tragic for our democracy," said Kok, whose government resigned last month over allegations that Dutch peacekeepers failed to prevent a massacre of Bosnian Muslims in 1995.

Dutch Liberal Euro Parliament Member Lousewies van der Laan told UPI that the killer would have the "same effect on the Netherlands that the September 11 bombings had on the United States. There is a dawning realization that we are not immune to the horrors of the rest of the world."

"We have lost our innocence," she added.

A rally of Dutch young Socialists due to be attended by Melkert and U.K. Prime Minister Tony Blair on Tuesday in Fortuyn's hometown of Rotterdam was canceled because of the killing, a Labor Party representative said. The source said the country was "in shock at the terrible news." ▼

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CAPA

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ident. "All of that is important modes for people to get around the Castro, not only cars. Cars are a minority mode of transportation in the Castro."

Without any official traffic studies to verify CAPA's claims that closure of the street would not cause traffic problems in the neighborhood, the merchants and business owners remain doubtful the project is even warranted. Many fear closure of the street would result in shifting more traffic to other streets and cause more problems.

Craig Joyner, the owner of property on Noe Street and Sorrento Sun Center in the Castro, echoed the sentiments of many merchants in a letter he wrote to express his opposition to the project. In the letter, he voices concern of diverting traffic coming eastbound on market to the six-way intersection of Market, Noe, and 16th Street. In addition, Joyner stated traffic could back up on Noe since the streetcars turn down Noe before turning back up 17th.

"This oddly shaped intersection is already dangerous for both automobiles and pedestrians, and adding more car traffic will compound the problem. Both 16th and Noe are single lane side streets, not primary traffic arteries," wrote Joyner.

Other businesses are also opposed to the closure of 17th Street. Marcello's Pizza has stated its delivery business could be negatively impacted by not having access to 17th.

And the owner of the Chevron station said his business, having already been severely impacted by the F-Line stop, could face further financial losses due to the proposal.

Owner David Sahagan said during the MUMC meeting that his business has lost $10,000 per month since installation of the F-Line stop and that he has had to lay off employees. He said further restricting access to his station could further erode his business.

According to CAPA, the project is being supported by the Market Street Railway, the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, WalkSF, Pedestrian Safety Task Force, SF Tomorrow, and City CarShare. Also, CAPA has said more than 500 neighbors have signed a petition in support of the project, and the Eureka Valley Promotion Association supports the idea.

Supervisor Mark Leno has also voiced support for the concept and has encouraged CAPA to meet with residents and merchants to address their concerns.

"I think it is a very worthy idea and should have a full public airing and consideration," said Leno. "Pedestrian plazas have been used as an element of community and urban design throughout Europe and other American cities. I think it has very real possibilities."

Before anything happens, CAPA intends to hold at least one more public meeting before submitting its proposal to the various city agencies that would need to sign off on the plan.

"We need to apply for this to become a city project. We don't have a timetable for that right now," Curtain said.

For more information on the proposal, visit www.capasf.org. ▼

AIDS cuts

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waiting lists to see a doctor, delays in receiving diagnoses, and problems in maintaining medical care regiments.

"When that starts happening, the progress we have made with people living longer we could see that begin to erode, in particular for poor people who rely on Ryan White primary care services," he said. "A lot of people could end up suffering needlessly."

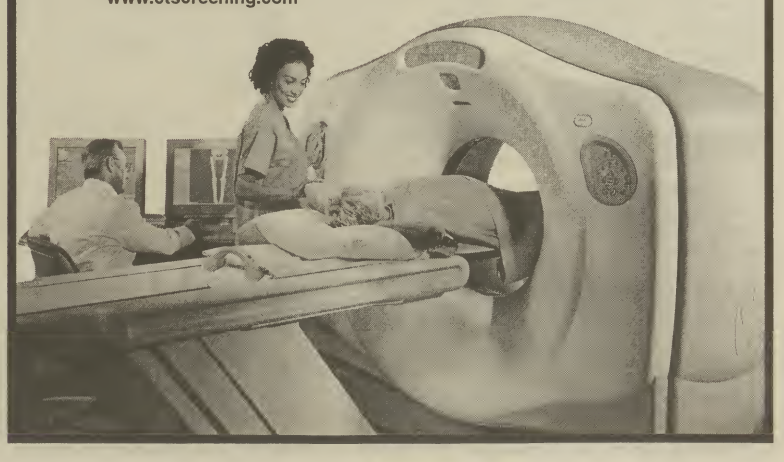
The HIV planning council has until September to decide what programs to prioritize and fund before the deadline to submit its application for CARE funds in 2003-2004. Jim Mitulski, co-chair of the council, said he doubts more across the board cuts are in store. Instead, he said the council will use the next six months to make more targeted cuts.

"They made a very compelling case for primary medical care. It will help us if we have to make a next round of cuts which will probably not be proportional cuts but targeted cuts at areas that Ryan White funding isn't really supposed to provide," said Mitulski.

The council still does not know why the federal government reduced the council's allotment this year. And Mitulski said the council has to consider the fact that it could see another reduction in funding.

"As a prudent planner we have to anticipate more cuts. We don't have an administration that is committed to health care for the poor," he said. ▼

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OBITUARIES

Mario Abad



In loving memory of Mario Abad, the Abad family invites you to join them for A Memorial Service to be held on Thursday, May 16, 2002 at 3:30 p.m. at Chapel of Grace, Grace Cathedral Episcopal Church, 1100 California St., San Francisco; phone (415) 749-6300.

Following the service, family, friends and guests will gather at Mario's favorite dining spot, the Oriental Pearl Restaurant at 760 Clay St. for a no-host dinner. All are welcome.

Mario was a consummate professional concierge who had a passion for helping people, volunteering and providing life-long connections to those he loved.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations in mario's name be made to Mitri Hospice, 401 Duboce Ave., San Francisco, CA 94117.

James B. "Jim" Forster, Jr.

February 27, 1946 — April 28, 2002



Jim Forster was unexpectedly hospitalized to California Pacific Medical Center on April 4th, initially diagnosed with pancreatitis; his doctors confirmed lymphoma cancer within the following week. Jim passed away peacefully in his sleep Sunday morning April 28th after courageously facing his cancer.

Jimmy was deeply loved by his family and friends. He was known for his caring and generous nature and subtle wit. The needs and concerns of his family and friends were always placed above his own. His integrity, character and honor was valued and respected by his family and dear friends.

Jim Forster was born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma to Jim and Judy Forster on Feb. 27, 1946. He was raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Upon graduation in 1967 from the University of Tulsa, Jim joined the United States Army serving in the Vietnam War with two tours of duty. During his tour of duty he was awarded the Bronze Star for Meritorious Service. Upon his honorable discharge he relocated to the Haight Ashbury community of San Francisco, California and was employed by the Southern Pacific Railroad. After his retirement from the Southern Pacific Railroad he was active in his community, real estate and the Art of Living Foundation.

Jim Forster was preceded in death by his father, James B. Forster Sr. and is survived by his mother, Ruby C. "Judy" Forster of Mesquite, Texas, his sister, Sandra Forster and her husband Bud Carmichael of Garland, Texas, his niece, Pamela Haig and her children, David and Heather, of Sugar Land, Texas and extended family of loving aunts, uncles and cousins in Texas. Jimmy was deeply loved and cherished by his family and many friends.

A memorial service for family will be held in Wills Point, Texas at Hayden Baptist Church on Saturday, May 4th at 2 p.m., and for friends in San Francisco, California at the Swedenborgian Church on Friday, May 17th at 2:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, Jim had requested donations be made to Project Open Hand, 730 Polk Street, San Francisco, CA 94109; phone 415-447-2415.

Dennis Vondra



Born October 22, 1949, died at home on Christmas Day 2001. Son of Nelda and John Vondra, beloved life partner for 24 years of Barry Simpkins. Dennis was proud to have been a U.S. Army veteran and paratrooper with the 82 Airborne. In 1978, we moved to San Francisco to stay.

He loved his family, Sue; Jack and Nancy; John and Janice; and his favorite nieces and nephews, Chad; James and Tom; Keith, Kimberly, Kaley, and his good friends, Francis, Bob, Wally, Paul, Ron, Jim, Aaron, Rex, Astrid, Richard, Shirley, David and Leslie, Hans, Richard, Bill, Gary, Joe, and especially, Tony.

In September 1998, one of the greatest moments of his life, he found his birth father, Jack Thome, and more family: Gary, Sheryl, Jerry, Larry, John and Terry.

Dennis was lovable, warm and sweet, kind and caring, and fun to be with. We'll all miss you.

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

OrchidMania sale this weekend

by Cynthia Laird

It's Mother's Day soon and that means it's time for OrchidMania's 13th annual weekend sale, which takes place in the Golden Gate Room at Fort Mason Center in San Francisco this Saturday and Sunday, May 11 and 12.

Billed as "The world's largest orchid garage sale," the event offers free admission and the chance for orchid aficionados to choose from among thousands of orchids. Proceeds from the sales benefit AIDS awareness and prevention programs in Northern California, Southeast Asia, and Latin America.

Admission to the event is free both days; OrchidMania runs Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A special kickoff breakfast preview Saturday morning begins at 9 and costs $20 per person. Organizers noted that the biggest bargains are expected Sunday after 2 p.m. and that people should bring their own box or container.

In addition to orchids for sale, the event includes educational materials on growing orchids and free demonstrations.

This year's beneficiaries include:

• Camp Sunburst, a summer camp in California founded for children with HIV/AIDS and their caregivers. The organization provides a summer camp for the kids and their caregivers where they can enjoy a week together in a camp-type setting. Medical and support care are provided for the children, and caregivers are also given medical advice, counseling, and support from trained counselors and medical personnel. The organization is funded through private grants and donations; it receives no government funding.

• Support the Children Foundation, an orphanage founded in the northern province of Chian Mai in Thailand. The organization provides a home-like atmosphere for children with HIV/AIDS who have been abandoned by their parents. The group also provides instruction and education to parents of infected children. The foundation relies on private donations; it receives no financial assistance from the Thai government.

• Foundation Dar Amor, which arose from the interest of some residents of Santiago de Cali, Columbia, who showed concern for the well-being of people infected with the AIDS virus. The program started eight years ago by opening a house for terminally ill AIDS patients, and provides medical, psychological, dental, nutritional, and spiritual care.

OrchidMania, a nonprofit organization, was started by Douglas Thompson, who continues to travel to Thailand and Vietnam several times a year at his own expense to provide technical assistance to grassroots AIDS organizations and to network with commercial orchid growers.

For more information about this weekend's sale, call (415) 841-1678 or visit www.orchids.org. ▼

Continuum hosts fundraiser at Great American Music Hall

by Zak Szymanski

This Monday, consider spending the evening honoring supporters of the HIV/AIDS community, enjoying performers, and sipping wine with friends. Continuum, the HIV/AIDS service organization and licensed healthcare facility in the Tenderloin, is hosting its annual fundraiser on May 13 at the Great American Music Hall in San Francisco.

As is tradition with the organization's annual event, two people will be honored for their HIV/AIDS contributions. Philanthropist Bruce Cronander will be recognized for his financial support to Continuum and his ability to cultivate new donors for the organization, and Lisa Capaldini, a well-known HIV specialist, will receive accolades for her work on behalf of the community.

The organization's fundraiser runs from 6-9 p.m. at 859 O'Farrell Street, and features band music and circus-type acts, and includes food and drink. Tickets start at $125.

Continuum provides health and social services to underserved populations who are often outside of the traditional models of healthcare. Many of its clients are dual-diagnosed with a combination of HIV and hepatitis.

Proceeds from the event will allow Continuum to continue its treatment, harm reduction, and research programs. For more information, or to reserve tickets, call (415) 437-2900, or visit www.continuumhiv.org. ▼

Register for second Nat. Conf. on Gender

by Zak Szymanski

Featured guests and speakers at the upcoming second National Conference on Gender include John Cameron Mitchell of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* fame; Carmen Vazquez, director of public policy of New York's LGBT Community Center; Pauline Mitchell, mother of the late Freddie Martinez Jr.; and Dawn Dawson, a lesbian who was allegedly fired from a top hair salon for being "too butch." Other presenters include Daphne Scholinski, author of *The Last Time I Wore a Dress*, and San Francisco's own transgender hip-hop poet Marcus Rene Van.

If the all-star lineup doesn't lure you to Washington, D.C. from May 18-20, then perhaps the conference focus on gender as it relates to all people, from gay men to straight women to transgenders, will convince you to hop on a cheap flight for the experience. Hosted by Gender Public Advocacy Coalition, the conference will include workshops that tackle gender bullying in schools; feminism and transgender issues; gender profiling after September 11; the re-examination of gender identity disorder; and women/men "only" spaces. Special tracks include the GenderLaw Institute and workshop sessions that explore gender, race, and class. The conference will wrap up with a special "lobby day," where participants will meet with members of Congress to discuss why gender-based protections are necessary for everyone.

The National Conference on Gender will take place at the Washington Hilton and Towers, 1919 Connecticut Avenue, NW. The Hilton is nearly sold out for lodging, but other package deals may be available at nearby hotels. For more information, visit www.gpac.org, or call (202) 462-6610. ▼

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Going the distance

by Jim Provenzano

There is a certain athletic devotion known only to distance runners. The hours spent pounding pavement and sweating provide a meditative yet exhausting form of exercise.

Anyone from novice joggers to seasoned marathoners will get a chance to extend their stamina this weekend at the Bay Area Distance Runners' annual marathon.

One of few in the world that is geared to gays, lesbians, and friends, each year runners and walkers gather from all parts of the Bay Area and across the country to attend.

"We find a wide diversity of runners who sign up for the race," said race co-chair Lois Allen. "We have many runners who are average race pace, but we also have quite a few who enter that are of national caliber."

This year is also special in the fact that the BADR also marks the kick-off for the official training program, which is geared toward running the marathon, half marathon, and 10K at Gay Games VI in Sydney this November.

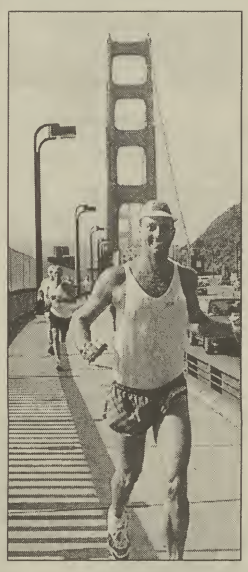
"We will have lots of tricks up our sleeve to help make this race memorable for our runners," said Dave Studach, race co-director. He anticipates up to 75 participants this year.

More than 10 years old, the event will follow "pretty much the same route," Studach said, "except for construction changes from previous years."

Among the many people going to Sydney this November, "We've got about 30 people going" to Gay Games VI.

Studach himself is a diehard multi-event competitor and medalist who's competed and helped organize every Gay Games since its inception. "The only thing I don't have for Sydney is a koala," he joked.

"They're going to do 10K, half, and full marathons. In Sydney, the route is a 13-mile loop, and the marathon is two loops. It's going to be around Homebush, the island where the Olympics was held," he added.



Bay Area distance runners span the Golden Gate.

The 2000 Olympics marathon went into Sydney proper via a different route. Although the Australian hosts are reportedly well under way with preparations, some San Francisco Federation of Gay Games delegates also had some input in the development of the events, making sure there was enough water, shade, and spritzers along the way, as well as providing for HIV-challenged people's needs.

"The marathon is quite a large event, and one that's open to the general public, with 800 spots reserved for participants," Studach said. "They then open it up to others, and also people in and around Sydney."

Although the world's more famous marathoners probably won't show for this event, many records may be broken.

With the best world record being around 2:05, Studach said, "I wouldn't be surprised if we have some times in the 2:20-2:30 range for men, which is extremely good. For women, the record is around the 2:20. I wouldn't be surprised if we get a 2:45 time."

The BADR event is a kick-off point for many Bay Area gay and lesbian runners. The San Francisco Marathon in July is another testing point for Gay Games-bound runners.

"People want to make sure they're up to marathon quality," said Studach. "It'll give them a bit of lag time. They should be peaking right around the second week of October."

While running is an individual sport, BADR provides group encouragement and a clearly structured training schedule.

"Most runners train a good five days a week," Studach said. "We recommend the hard/slow method; one week hard, one week slower. You want to increase your mileage, starting with 13 to 15, 17, then 20 miles, then 23. We usually do those every other weekend. You have to give your body a chance to recover. Keeping yourself quiet, because the Games are so intense, will be tough," Studach said. "You want to see everything, but you can tire yourself out if you're not careful."



Tri anything: Melanie Mociun at a recent triathlon.

Body in Mociun

One competitor that seems to never tire out is 49-year-old Melanie Mociun.

Not only will she be running in this weekend's BADR event, but she's also training for Gay Games VI. Mociun competes in 12-15 events per year.

"It's like an addiction," she admitted. "The feeling, the rush of how you feel after and what you've accomplished. I think there's a lot of type A behavior among triathletes. I like to think that I'm not like that."

We spoke via phone as she was driving back from yet another event last weekend, the Wildflower Olympic triathlon at Lake San Antonio near Pasorobles.

In its 20th year, the "Woodstock of triathlons" started as a bluegrass festival of music, and now boasts more than 6,000 athletes competing in the bike, running, and swimming event.

"My time was great, under what I shoot for," Mociun said. While she doesn't fret about times, she has noticed improvements since training seriously in 1994.

Mociun started swimming in Manhattan Beach in junior high school, and competed in her first year of high school, but lost interest for several years.

"I got back into swimming in my mid-30s, actually through Gay Games" she said.

At Gay Games II, she won a gold medal in the 200 freestyle and the 100 freestyle. "That got me going into the Masters Swim program." She also expanded her training to other areas.

After having completed several Alcatraz triathlons, the imposing tourist destination now looks more like a minor swim course to the triathlon veteran.

Understandably, cross training is a major element of her life. "I do running events, some open water events, and bike rides, as many of the organized ones as I can," she said.

"I didn't start doing triathlon until I was 42. At those events, there are even 70-year-olds. Going to Gay Games that year in 1986, that really did start me off. I hadn't trained at all, but I did well. Then I thought, maybe I should train. I did tons of open water events for years, and decided a triathlon would be a good idea."

The BADR event is just one part of her expansive athletic regimen. Her Sydney events will include triathlon, half marathon and "a couple of swimming events. That's what I did in Amsterdam. In New York, I just did swimming."

What does such a hard-core athlete do to relax?

"My girlfriend and I just spent two weeks in Italy on a wine and cheese tour, hiking around Rome," she said. "It was the first time we went out on a trip that wasn't about sports."

Runaround

Even if you're not a distance runner, you can watch or volunteer this weekend. The San Francisco Freedom Day Band will participate in the event's festivities.

Helping many runners turn in PRs (personal records) is the fact that the course is pancake flat and awesomely scenic, taking in views of the historic naval shipyards, the new Pac Bell Park, the Bay Bridge, the Embarcadero, Fisherman's Wharf, and other popular Bay Area sights.

According to volunteer coordinator Sylvia Allen, "The runners and volunteers alike have an experience like no other. It's the only race I've seen where the volunteers are actually thanked by the runners for giving course directions and water as they pass by."

Afterwards, runners, volunteers, friends, partners, and families enjoy a scrumptious brunch on the patio of Jellies while enjoying sweeping vistas of the bay during the post-race awards ceremony.

If you are not up to running a marathon, you can volunteer. Call Sylvia Allen at (415) 752-0446.

The race is this Sunday, Mother's Day, May 12. Start and finish is at Jellies at Pier 50, on China Basin Street, just off 3rd Street, right behind Pac Bell Park. Starting time for race walking is 7 a.m., and the race starts at 7:30 sharp.

For entry application form, visit the BADR Web site at www.sfbadr.com. Course maps and race results are also posted on the site.

Soiré, sashay

Make plans to attend the Team San Francisco kick-off party and fundraiser in the Ceremonial (top floor) Room of the LGBT Community Center (Market Street at Octavia) on May 16 from 6-9 p.m. Enjoy copious snacks, a no-host bar, and entertainment. Your $15-$20 donation will go to the Ath-

next page ▶

Sports Complex

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Family Caregiver Alliance's new LGBT Caring Community Project offers FREE services to those caring for someone 60 years or older. To learn more about our LGBT online support group, workshops, Caregiver Retreat, and more, call:

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Project made possible through funding provided by the Older Americans Act, administered locally by the San Francisco Office on the Aging.

HIV research update

by Bob Roehr

Researchers have long known that HIV is so deadly because it attacks and infects CD4 T-cells, a basic component of the body's immune system. An even more detailed picture of that attack was published in the May 2 issue of *Nature* by researchers at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

While all CD4 cells appear to be vulnerable to HIV infection, that subset of CD4 cells that are programmed to recognize and attack HIV are two to five times more likely to become infected with the virus than are CD4 cells programmed to attack other pathogens.

Working with cell cultures, the researchers found that naive CD4 cells were particularly vulnerable to infection as they made the transition to a mature state where they were capable of fighting HIV. It appears that HIV knocks out most of the subset of CD4 cells capable of fighting it at a very early point of infection, and then relentlessly sets about infecting all of the other less vulnerable CD4 subsets.

That work was confirmed when they examined patients during a strategic interruption of HIV therapy. "In one patient, over half of all of his infected CD4 T-cells were HIV-specific," said NIAID researcher Dr. Richard Koup.

The implications are stark. "Although short courses of structured intermittent therapy do not result in increased levels of HIV, longer regimens that permit the viral load to increase may result in long-term damage of the immune system's ability to fight off HIV," said researcher Dr. Daniel Douek.

It reinforces the perspective that achieving greater suppression of viral load is better. But it leaves unanswered the question of how low a level of suppression is low enough to preserve the HIV-specific subset of CD4 cells.

The structured interruption of therapy of seven days on and seven days off a drug regimen being investigated by NIAID director Dr. Anthony Fauci has not seen the virus rebound from undetectable to detectable levels. The implication is that this specific length of interruption appears to be relatively benign for the gross destruction of CD4 cells. But does that reflect what is happening within the HIV-specific subset of CD4 cells? The answer to that question is not yet known.

The mystery of KS

Another piece of the puzzle that is Kaposi's sarcoma came into place with the discovery that trauma is a necessary part of the equation. KS has long been associated with advanced HIV disease, where the immune system has deteriorated to a very low number of CD4 cells and is not able to fight off opportunistic infections very well. KS has become much less prevalent since the introduction of protease inhibitors that help keep HIV in check.

In 1994, researchers identified a second piece of the puzzle when they isolated a virus, human herpes virus 8 (HHV8), as a necessary factor in the development of KS. It appears to be spread through saliva, most likely through deep kissing. HHV8 is significantly more common among gay men than among the general American population.

Dr. Jennifer Webster-Cyriaque discovered the importance of trauma almost by accident. The University of North Carolina researcher was looking for HHV8 in the blood and salivary glands of an HIV-positive patient. She performed a biopsy, taking a small piece of a salivary gland.

The patient came back a few days later with a lesion growing inside his lip, exactly where the biopsy had been taken. Antibiotics did not affect it, and the lesion continued to grow. A second biopsy revealed that it was Kaposi's sarcoma. Radiation therapy finally suppressed the lesion and it has been in remission for more than two years.

Further examination found HHV8 in macrophages in the tumor. Macrophages are a scavenging part of the immune system that circulates in the blood, they also promote wound healing. She found the virus in skin cells, lymphocytes, and endothelial cells. Webster-Cyriaque said this points to the need to develop antiviral therapy to better control or even eliminate HHV8 infection.

The study appeared in the April 18 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

New ways to restrain HIV?

A novel route to controlling HIV was identified in yeast by a research team at Johns Hopkins University. It was published in the April 26 issue of *Molecular Cell*.

The researchers put together two facts; the first is that a cellular mechanism pumps manganese and calcium out of cells. Organisms with a defective PMR1 gene have a defective "pump" and build up higher levels of manganese and calcium inside their cells. Higher levels of manganese dramatically lowers the activity of reverse transcriptase.

The second fact is that reverse transcriptase is the enzyme that HIV uses to make copies of itself inside each cell. Most HIV drugs (except protease inhibitors) target this process to disrupt reverse transcription and viral replication.

In human cell cultures, they found that a threefold increase in the level of manganese ions inside the cell cuts the activity of HIV reverse transcriptase in half.

But a test tube is not a human being. The next step will be to create a "knockout mouse" with a defective PMR1 gene and see if increased levels of manganese in a living mouse inhibits HIV replication. If that proves true, it may take years if not decades to develop an effective therapy. And issues of toxicity may make that impossible.

Finally, Johns Hopkins researcher Dr. William Moss found that having measles suppressed the HIV viral load in a group of children in Lusaka, Zambia. This is contrary to what was expected, because measles is a very immunosuppressive virus.

Moss found that a group of 33 children admitted to the hospital with measles had a median HIV viral load of 5,339 at time of admission, 60,121 at discharge, and 387,148 one month after discharge. There was something about the measles infection or the immune response to it that led to the transient suppression of HIV replication.

Dr. George Watt, a U.S. Army researcher working in Thailand, has shown the same effect with the tropical infection scrub typhus. This work may lead to new approaches to inhibiting HIV. ▼

AIDS activists

◀ page 3

charges in the case, as is standard in such circumstances. A new round of preliminary hearings is scheduled to begin May 15.

According to New York activist and attorney Bill Dobbs, who last year spearheaded a letter of support for the pair, "The dismissal is a victory for due process, a chance for the DA – and others – to rethink the long list of criminal charges for political protest activities."

Said San Francisco resident Michael Lauro, of the group AIDS Activists Against Violence and Lies, "I think this is just a procedural bump on the road to a guilty verdict for these thugs posing as activists."

In addition to a new judge, the assistant district attorney who argued the city's case during the preliminary hearings, Machaela Hoctor, is transferring to a new department and a new prosecutor, Michon Martin, has been assigned to the case.

Pasquarelli currently remains in the hospital with cryptococcal meningitis. If he is too ill to appear in court next week, the hearings will be postponed; however, Pasquarelli's attorney Mark Vermeulen said he expects that Pasquarelli will be present. Petrelis was unavailable for comment by press time. ▼

Sharon Smith

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was dog victim Diane Whipple's former partner, Sharon Smith, and her new flame, whom party attendees described as a virtual Whipple look-alike. 'Really freaky,' whispered one dinner guest."

Smith's attorney, Michael Cardoza, told the *B.A.R.*: "My response to that is I'm appalled that anyone would write about it but I would be more appalled if anyone would think less of Sharon because of it."

In an e-mail complaint to the columnists, *Chronicle* reader Paula Murphy wrote: "How horrible it must be to lose a loved one and have the world watch you grieve and then have journalists demean you when you finally feel ready to put yourself out there again.

"Smith didn't ask to be put in this situation but she had the courage to stand up for what was right when the situation presented itself to her," added Murphy. "I, for one, am personally grateful because she is a huge reason why Californians enjoy the relatively generous domestic partner benefits that we do. I think most people would agree that she has done a tremendous amount of good for gay people and nothing worthy of catty, cruel comments."

In a response to the *B.A.R.*'s request for comment, columnist Andy Ross e-mailed: "We would only point out that while Sharon Smith supposedly seeks to get on with her private life, she has continued to put herself in the public's eye. She has filed a civil lawsuit stemming from Diane Whipple's death, she's been interviewed on TV, she has appeared at a gay and lesbian lawyers dinner to accept an award the very night of the verdicts against Robert Noel and Marjorie Knoller, and she has attended civic functions like the recent restaurant opening.

"All of which – like it or not – has contributed to her 'celebrity' status. And, in our estimation, it becomes newsworthy when Sharon chooses to show up at a public event with a new girlfriend – and it draws a reaction from other guests. It's all part of the interesting fabric of San Francisco that we write about on a regular basis.

"On the bigger issue of the merits of reporting this, finally, I'd like to point out that Phil [Matier] and I regularly discuss and debate what should go into the column – and when things might be out of bounds. We don't take our responsibility to be fair lightly. And while we certainly respect the courage and dignity that Ms. Smith has shown throughout her painful ordeal, we also believe our readers expect us to be candid in our reporting – even if it creates some discomfort." ▼

Gay prisoners

◀ page 3

of the attorney general's office, has fought the courts at every turn. A Superior Court judge also ordered Smith's release, but the governor has likewise fought his parole. If the high court had decided instead not to hear the cases at all, the lower courts' rulings would have stood, likely resulting in immediate freedom for both men.

Seventeen years ago, Rosenkrantz shot and killed former schoolmate Steve Redman shortly after Rosenkrantz's 18th birthday. A week before the shooting, Redman, along with Rosenkrantz's younger brother, stormed a high school graduation party Rosenkrantz hosted. The pair was armed with a heavy metal flashlight and a stun gun and they entered yelling "faggots." In the melee that followed, Redman broke Rosenkrantz's nose with a flashlight and Redman later outed Rosenkrantz to his father.

Rosenkrantz has been critical of some of the mainstream media coverage of his case that continues to report that he shot and killed someone who outed him, without mentioning that his victim assaulted him. Rosenkrantz cited the most recent *Los Angeles Times* article on his case that was published last Thursday. Although Rosenkrantz and his supporters say Redman's assault in no way excuses the shooting, it was one of the extenuating circumstances the jury considered in reaching its verdict of second-degree, rather than first-degree murder. When Davis blocked Rosenkrantz's parole, he said that Rosenkrantz was lucky he wasn't convicted of first-degree murder.

Smith was involved in the shooting and drowning death of a man in a dispute over cocaine. According to the Superior Court judge who ordered Smith paroled, Smith was an accomplice, and not the active participant in the murder. The judge was sharply critical of Davis for suggesting that Smith, and not the other man he was with, shot and drowned the victim. Smith suffers from AIDS, dementia, cancer, and Parkinson's disease.

Davis once promised to block the parole of all convicted killers. Since taking office, he's only approved parole for two killers, both of whom were women who killed their abusive partners.

Davis issued a brief press release in response to the Supreme Court taking up the Rosenkrantz case. It's a case that has become a lightning rod for those who have argued that Davis has unfairly propped up his tough on crime image at the expense of inmates deserving parole.

"I'm pleased the court has agreed unanimously to accept this case for review," Davis wrote. "By hearing it, the court will examine important constitutional issues regarding the governor's ability to protect the people of California from murderers who would otherwise be released on parole. I applaud the Supreme Court for taking this important step. It vindicates the California Constitution by effectively vacating the previous Court of Appeal ruling, which I believe was wrongly decided.

"I note that today is National Law Day," added Davis in the May 1 press release. "The court's action today reminds us of the important role the judiciary plays in interpreting our Constitution, protecting public safety, and maintaining the rights of individuals." ▼

Sports Complex

◀ previous page

lete's Assistance Fund, which has provided monetary assistance to athletes who otherwise would not be able to participate in the Games. Help celebrate the tradition of the Gay Games and the athletes of Team San Francisco, where the Games began 20 years ago. Come and meet other athletes. There will also be lots of information on the Games, an athletes fashion show where you can see some of your favorite jocks strut their stuff, and special guests.

Hard Selby

A group of nine Sonoma County Gay Games-bound athletes (including a few gold medalists) will be having fundraisers this weekend in charmingly rural Guerneville. All events are hosted by Leather Daddy Alan Selby.

Friday night, May 10, 9 p.m. at the Eagle bar, Snatch will perform. Also among the festive entertainment: arm wrestling, head shaving, boot polishing, and a jock auction.

Saturday, May 11, at the Triple R Resort, from noon onward, the poolside entertainment will include a fashion show and an auctioned date with a Gay Games athlete.

Saturday night at Club Fab features more fundraising efforts, music, dancing, and other fun.

Sunday, 2 p.m. at the Rainbow Cattle Company, a beer bust, raffle and a barbecue will be hosted by – déjà vu – MC Alan Selby. More info: http://events.support-sf.com.

If these guys don't make a barrel of money, they should at least get a medal for fundraising tenacity.

Grapple sauce

Several members of Golden Gate Wrestling Club will be competing and helping out at the 70th annual Far Western Wrestling Tournament this Friday and Saturday at San Francisco State University's gym. This large-scale open tourney features some of the area's best freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestlers. For more info, visit www.ca-usaw.org/events.html. ▼

If you have a sports event coming send a press release with all the info to: JimProv@hotmail.com. For other sports info, visit www.sportscomplex.org. For a book that goes the distance, get my novel *PINS* for only $1 with your membership to www.InsightOutBooks.com.

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DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION

Come participate in the Brown Bag Lunch Talks at 1660 Mission Street, Room 2001 (second floor), Thursdays, Noon to 1:30 P.M.

The department welcomes you to attend a series of informal, general information talks presented at no charge to the public and City staff. There will be 15 minutes of general discussion and questions before each topic. Bring your lunch; coffee and other drinks will be provided.

The topic for May 16, 2002 is: How to Transform your Home into a Green Building B Cheap and Easy Conservation Strategies

Speakers PG&E representative, Bob Besso, Sunset Scavenger; Martyn Dodd, Energy Cosultant: Department of Building Inspection staff

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WIC Program

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Supplemental Nutrition Program provides nutrition education, food vouchers, and breastfeeding support for pregnant women, postpartum women, infants, and children younger than five. Vouchers are picked up at a WIC site on a monthly/bimonthly basis and may be exchanged for milk, cheese, eggs, cereal, juice, peanut butter/beans, and infant formulas in most grocery stores. All WIC services are free of charge. For more information, please call (415) 554-9667.

STATEMENT FILE N0.256786

The following person(s) are doing business as: Keenan Design. 1366 Hayes Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed John Anthony Keenan. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 4/11/02. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/11/2002.

APRIL 18, 25, MAY 2, 9, 2002

TATEMENT FILE 256785

The following person(s) are doing business as: Hardwood Floor Complete. 431 Foerster, San Francisco, Ca. 94127. This business is conducted by an individual signed Peter Nguyen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 4/01/02. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/11/2002.

APRIL 18, 25, MAY 2, 9, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 256725

The following person(s) are doing business as: Body Manipulations. 3234 16th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Paul Stoll. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 4/01/02. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/08/2002.

APRIL 18, 25, MAY 2, 9, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 256702

The following person(s) are doing business as: Metropolitan Retail Store. 1751 Market Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Eduardo Cervera. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/09/2002.

APRIL 18, 25, MAY 2, 9, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 256713

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cigalou Cafe. 761 Beach Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jalal Heydari. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/09/2002.

APRIL 18, 25, MAY 2, 9, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 256769

The following person(s) are doing business as: BPM Specialist. 1330 Stevenson Street #C306, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Roderick P. Respicio. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 10, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/10/2002.

APRIL 18, 25, MAY 2, 9, 2002

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 224613

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Comm Link Plus. Located at: 1330 Stevenson Street #C306, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: July 13, 1998. This business was conducted by: a individual: Roderick P. Respicio.

APRIL 18, 25, MAY 2, 9, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 256856

The following person(s) are doing business as: Dafuc Investments. 3910 23rd Street Apt. #5, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Tom Mubiru. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/15/2002.

APRIL 25, MAY 2, 9, 16, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 256884

The following person(s) are doing business as: My Sweet Pea. 253 Central Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Hector I. Tuesta. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 15, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/15/2002.

APRIL 25, MAY 2, 9, 16, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 256951

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Dungeon. 2500 3rd Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an Individual signed Shouman H. Shouman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/17/2002.

APRIL 25, MAY 2, 9, 16, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 256937

The following person(s) are doing business as: Truevision Instruments. 4220 Cesar Chavez #211, San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by an general partnership signed Ralf Thomaier and Gudrun Isecke. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 15, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/17/2002.

APRIL 25, MAY 2, 9, 16, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 256450

The following person(s) are doing business as: Running With Scissors Marketing And Design. 250 Clara Street #12, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an Individual signed Terry P. Hemphill. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/01/2002.

APRIL 25, MAY 2, 9, 16, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 256968

The following person(s) are doing business as: SMP, Inc. Standard Metal Products, Inc. 558 Bryant Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Kevin Binkert, owner. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 01, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/17/2002.

APRIL 25, MAY 2, 9, 16, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 256991

The following person(s) are doing business as: eConsult Small Business Services, Bear Consult. 90 Kissling Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Stefan R. Petersen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/18/2002.

APRIL 25, MAY 2, 9, 16, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 256990

The following person(s) are doing business as: Rubbear. 1346 Judah Street #2, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed James E. Carter. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/18/2002.

APRIL 25, MAY 2, 9, 16, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 256919

The following person(s) are doing business as: figureplant. 2122 Bryant Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed David M. Frederickson and Beth A. Ahlstrand. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 27, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/16/2002.

APRIL 25, MAY 2, 9, 16, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.02-540218

In the Matter of the Application of Jennifer Lee Mullen, For change of Name. The application of Jennifer Lee Mullen for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jennifer Lee Mullen has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Lady Nigel Butterfly. Now therfore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 10th day of June, 2002 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

APRIL 25, MAY 2, 9, 16, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.02-540235

In the Matter of the Application of Tracy Jean Griffin, For change of Name. The application of Tracy Jean Griffin for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Tracy Jean Griffin has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Cowen Jakub Conaghan. Now therfore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 20th day of June, 2002 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

APRIL 25, MAY 2, 9, 16, 2002

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.02-540211
In the Matter of the Application of Jacob Edward Argueta and Kayla Isabell Argueta, For change of Name. The application of Jacob Edward Argueta and Kayla Isabell Argueta for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jacob Edward Argueta and Kayla Isabell Argueta has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Jacob Edward Peake and Kayla Isabel Peake. Now therfore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 4th day of June, 2002 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
APRIL 25, MAY 2, 9, 16, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.02-540216
In the Matter of the Application of Hamidon Bin Hussin. For change of Name. The application of Hamidon Bin Hussin for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Hamidon Bin Hussin has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to David Kyle Brumiage. Now therfore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 10th day of June, 2002 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
APRIL 18, 25, MAY 2, 9, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.02-540228
In the Matter of the Application of Susan Elaine Virgil, For change of Name. The application of Susan Elaine Virgil for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Susan Elaine Virgil has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to - Suzanne Elaine Vigil. Now therfore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the ---18th day of June at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
MAY 2, 9, 16, 23, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC-02540261
In the Matter of the Application of Christopher Charles Kelm For change of Name. The application of Christopher Charles Kelm for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Christopher Charles Kelm has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Christopher Charles Shelgren. Now therfore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 8th day of July at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
MAY 9, 16, 23, 30, 2002

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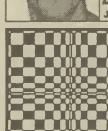
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STATEMENT FILE 256328
The following person(s) are doing business as: Blue Gacko Imports. 800 26th Avenue #5, San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by an individual signed Ray Alan Meadows. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/27/2002.
APRIL 25, MAY 2, 9, 16, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257001
The following person(s) are doing business as: S.F. City Living. 1438 Leavenworth Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Richard Moeller. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 18, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/18/2002.
MAY 2, 9, 16, 23, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257267
The following person(s) are doing business as: TravelMaestros.com. 1642 Hyde Street, #2, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed David Wai Lau. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/29/2002.
MAY 2, 9, 16, 23, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257350
The following person(s) are doing business as: Deathray Theatre Group. 104 Bennington Street #C, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Emily S. Frank and Laura C. Baca. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 01, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/01/2002.
MAY 9, 16, 23, 30, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257380
The following person(s) are doing business as: Chezise- Gem- Design. 3549 Lawton Street #628, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Felix Y. Tse, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 01, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/02/2002.
MAY 9, 16, 23, 30, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257429
The following person(s) are doing business as: IGB & Associates. 1571 22nd Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Gary Millare. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 16, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/06/2002.
MAY 9, 16, 23, 30, 2002

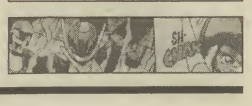
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC-02540260
In the Matter of the Application of Kristy Marie Kelm For change of Name. The application of Kristy Marie Kelm for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Kristy Marie Kelm has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Kristy Marie Shelgren. Now therfore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 8th day of July at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
MAY 9, 16, 23, 30, 2002

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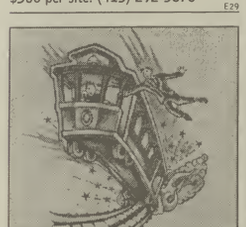
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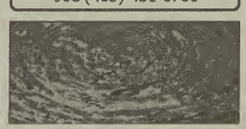
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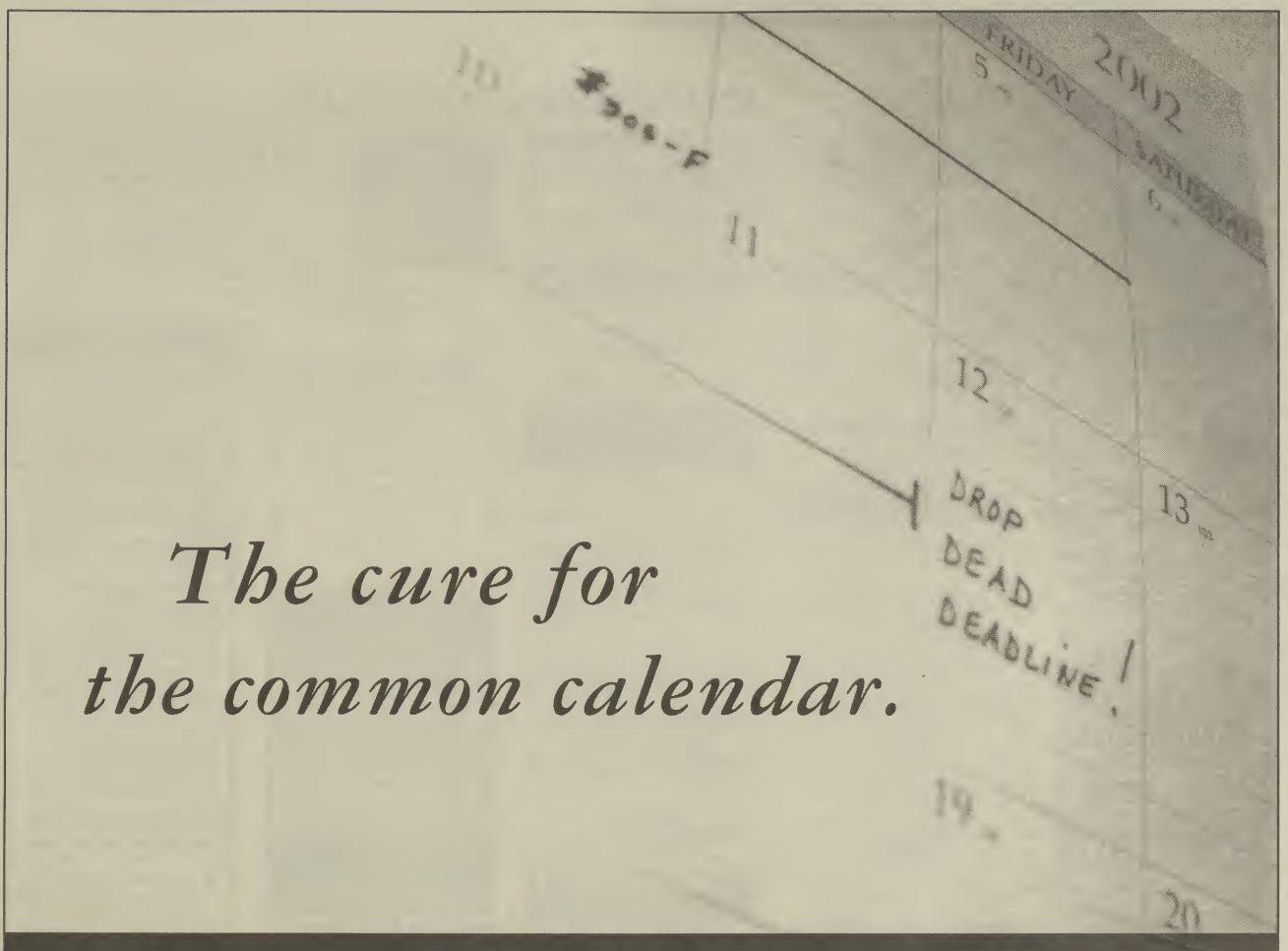
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Wherefore art thou, Romeo?
Four fresh faces at a Catholic prep school find same-sex love in 'Shakespeare's R&J.'
page 28

How to pass as male
In 'Triumph of Love,' the clothes do make the man.
page 32



Dancers return to SF
Stephen Pelton, Lea Wolf show new work at ODC.
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BAY AREA REPORTER
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
Vol. 32 • No. 19 • 9 May 2002



Rick Gerharter

"My pelvis has a life of its own."

Sexing up John Leguizamo

Freewheeling 'Sexaholix' at the Orpheum

by Richard Dodds

There are two things John Leguizamo won't reveal: his anger and his body. At least the author and star of *Sexaholix*, opening May 7, didn't want to reveal them in the course of an otherwise freewheeling conversation in a suite at the Clift Hotel.

"I don't think I've lost my edge," the wiry star said, after talking about the otherwise mellowing effects of becoming a father. "I'm still angry about a lot of things, and I'm not afraid I'm going to lose that."

The sources of that anger, though, remain off-limits to an interviewer. "That's kind of my personal internal monologue that inspires me, so I don't like to share that," the 37-year-old performer said. "If you're a creative artist, you need to be a little dissatisfied with the way things are."

In a succession of acclaimed one-man shows that have included *Mambo Mouth*, *Spic-O-Rama*, and *Freak*, Leguizamo has used both broad and slashing humor to channel his conflicted feelings about the world around him. Family and ethnic culture are ongoing topics, and as its title promises, *Sexaholix* puts its focus on the agonies and ecstasies of getting laid. Or at least trying to get laid.

The poster for *Sexaholix*, nominated this week for a Tony Award, is a striking image of a shirtless Leguizamo, his trim torso on ample display, and his low-hanging jeans offering a cunning hint of his sightly buns. It didn't seem too out of order to ask if he would doff his shirt for a photograph.

"I'll do it only if everyone leaves the room, and then I'll be buck naked

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Acid-washed queens

'The Cockettes' inspire at the Castro

by David Lamble



Fayette Hauser

Once upon a time in a place that looked suspiciously like San Francisco, a real-life band of genderbenders made a brief but snazzy stand. Calling themselves the Cockettes (rhymes with Rockettes), these ladies (technically 9 guys and 3 gals) ruled for an all-too-brief but fabulous time (two-and-a-half years, bridging the Summer of Love and the Harvey Milk era). Appearing onstage during intermission for the Palace Theatre's *Nocturnal Dream Show* during North Beach's last stand as a gay Mecca, the Cockettes' *Les Ghouls* (on a bill with *Night of the Living Dead*) or *Pearls Over Shanghai* (complete with costumes stolen from the Peking Opera) appealed to the drag 'n' acid crowd. Now remembered chiefly for having spawned disco drag diva Sylvester, in their time the Cockettes led the West Coast version of Andy Warhol Nation. Appealing to a crowd of taste-setters as diverse as Truman Capote and John Waters, the Cockettes (at the height of their media fame, circa 1971) sought to take New York by storm with their all-drag revue *Tinsel Tarts in a Hot Coma*. Stepping out of a limo lent them by Marlene Dietrich, the Cockettes were a Big Apple bomb. *The New York Times* headlined: "The Cockettes: The Show Was a Drag." Rex Reed sighed, "My God! This is worse than Hiroshima."

Three decades later, documentarians David Weissman and Bill Weber have reassembled the surviving members of the troupe, and painstakingly sifted through thousands of photos, film clips and live stage recordings to provide a unique glimpse of an era that still provides inspiration for today's pop-driven dreams. *The Cockettes*, opening Friday at the Castro Theatre, captures the giddy time when glamour and attitude ruled, and a passion for dead animal skins and fur was not politically incorrect.

Weissman says dressing up for the Midnight movies at the Palace preceded and even helped give birth to the Cockettes. "People would trip or whatever, but they would get dressed up in costumes and come see these weird triple bills of very eclectic movies — Betty Boop, Agnes Varda, Buñuel and Busby

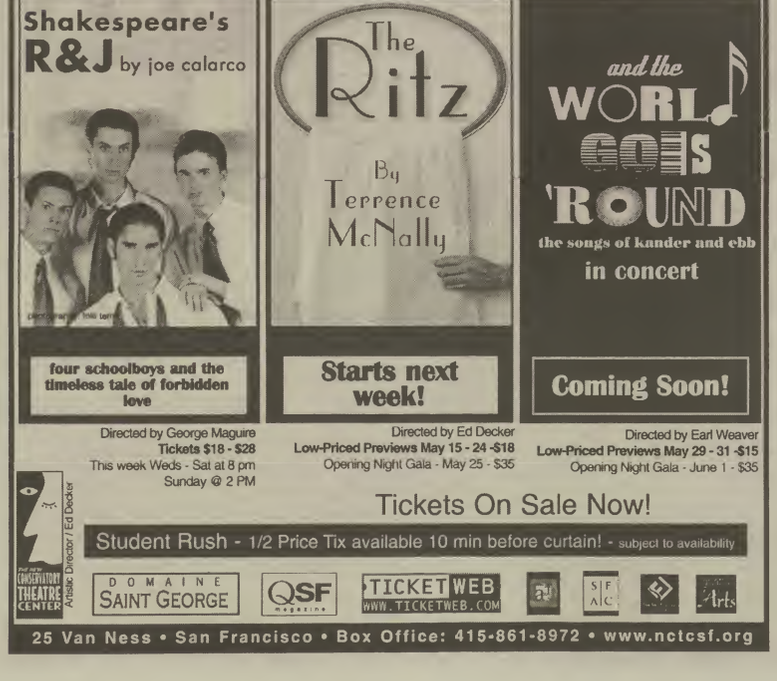
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OUT THERE



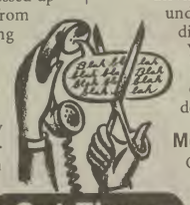






by Roberto Friedman and Brad Shoulders

A word to the wise: if you're planning to be a part of the scene which will be the very special 7 p.m. screening of *The Cockettes* at the Castro Theatre on Friday night, come dressed up in your idea of drag from the era (we're talking trashy '70s genderfuck drag) and you just might become one lucky Neocockette. There will be highly professional **Dragspotters** sizing you up on the sly, and the best exemplars of dangerous, glameriffic drag will be recognized — and awarded their very own autographed *Cockettes* glossy.




Clay Geerdes

Sweet Pam of the Cockettes

Don't forget to check out the Castro's display cases full of pictures of outrageous draggers: some queen went to a lot of effort to redecorate and florid arrange. Expect to see everyone in the crowd from **surviving 'kettes** to **wigged-out wannabes**, **Haight/Ashbury hippie queens** and **new-school trannydrags**. Heck, pick something out of the trash on your way to the Castro and slap it on, girl, you could win Most Delirious Vision.

Cockettes was also the word in everyone's mouth last Saturday night at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, when three gay-themed shows opened simultaneously in one queer dream of an evening. **The Cockettes**, **Dyke Action Machine** and **Isaac Julien** all have their charms (see facing page), but Out There got our biggest aesthetic buzz dancing dervishly to "Funkytown" under the mirrored disco ball installed in YBC's Forum. Just like **John Revolta** on a three-day bender!

Mom abuse

On Saturday, May 11, erstwhile Londoner **Ggreg Taylor**, back in our little cowtown for ggood?, holds his annual Mother's Day bash at the Eagle Saloon. The party theme, *Mom of Finland 2: Bottom*, is a bit of a throwback to Classic Ggreg. "Five years ago I flew down my mom, **Mary Frances**, and my **Aunt Kitty** from Spokane, and threw a leather M-Day party for them at what was the Castro Station. I dressed mom as a fisting top, and my Aunt Kitty as a piss bottom, and threw them into the fray.


He's baaaaaaack! Ggreg Taylor

"So this year I decided to take momsploitation one step further," Ggreg braggs. "Mary Frances is gonna be flagging on the right, poor dear. What that poor woman is willing to put up with for free cocktails and the affection of strangers. Apple doesn't fall far from the tree, do it?" The party starts around 10 p.m., and there's no cover. Welcome Ggreg back to where he belonggs.

That toddlin' town

Just like our friend **Twyla Tweets** and others who may have stayed too long at the fair, Out There sometimes wishes that the carousel would slow down long enough for us to figure out which horse we're on. So every now and again, we have to dismount from the merry-go-round, abandon the screenings and the vip-rooms, pass on the latest CD and the freshly-minted scuttlebutt, and go somewhere, anywhere, away from the bubble and Babel of the Bay Area. Vacation in the root sense of vacate: leave the premises, and the **Usual Suspects**, behind.

So last week we headed to a faraway and unfamiliar airport, Oakland!, and boarded the first Southwest flight out. You may have heard that Southwest is the only airline that hasn't lost millions in revenue in the post-terrorist economy. That's true, and it's because it's not really an airline at all, but a bus line with wings. There's no seat assignment, you can only bring one carry-on, and there's no class-segregation by seat. All of this was OK with OT, as our goal was to get to Chicago as no-frills as possible. There, our old friend the **Recovering Dramaholic** picked us in her trendy new Mini-Cooper S, as seen on the cover of the *Times*' new *Escapes* section.


Terry Rishel

Chihuly's Nijima floats in Chicago

Our idea of a great escape was to pack a bag with moldy cheese, bread and berries, and pour a bottle of **Coppola** white into plastic sippy-cups with no-spill lids. Then we hid out in the Desert Room of the Garfield Park Conservatory, where *Chihuly in the Park: A Garden of Glass* made the flora of the Aroid House and the Palm House seem half plant, half blown-glass. Artist **Dale Chihuly** has created magical reeds and "Nijima floats" that blend in remarkably, seemingly flowerings of colored glass themselves. Through May 19.

Seafood beat: Overheard at Chicago's Midway airport, one sailor to another, "It's *always* a tip-off when a chick's Adam's apple is bigger than your own!"

More gay birds

Last week's item about those flamboyant pairs of same-sex mute swans necking it up in the Chesapeake Bay brought all sorts of confirmations of documented cases of homosex in the animal kingdom. The *Psychic Reader*'s **Ananova** sent word of a pair of black-footed penguins at the New York Aquarium, **Wendell** and **Cass**, who have been living together in homo harmony for eight years. Now that's what we call gay marriage.

Aquarium spokespenguin **Angie Pelekedis** told the *Daily Telegraph*, "They're one of the most dedicated couples in the penguin enclosure. They sleep in the same nest." In matching **Perry Ellis** sleepwear?

Apparently the old stereotypes of dominant/submissive *do* apply. Penguin-keeper **Stephanie Mitchell** said, "Cass tends to be a rather aggressive bird. Wendell is very nervous; always has been. They're currently in a dispute with another couple over their nest. It seems to be one of the most desirable places in the penguin enclosure."

Give it a good shake

Self-appointed online movie critic **Mr. Cranky** had a most interesting way to describe his assessment of stupefying new Hollywood action release *The Scorpion King*: "If the director **Chuck Russell** held his urinating penis the same way he apparently holds a camera," opined Mr. Cranky, "hitting the toilet would be an afterthought."

Popular mechanics

Thanks to the higher management types who have time to peruse the most esoteric and educational materials out there on the Web, who pointed us to **buttmachineboys**.com, a website not for the faint of heart. The idea here, in the gentle words of the proprietors, is "men getting fucked hard by our fucking machines."

The stars of the site are the fiendish contraptions themselves,

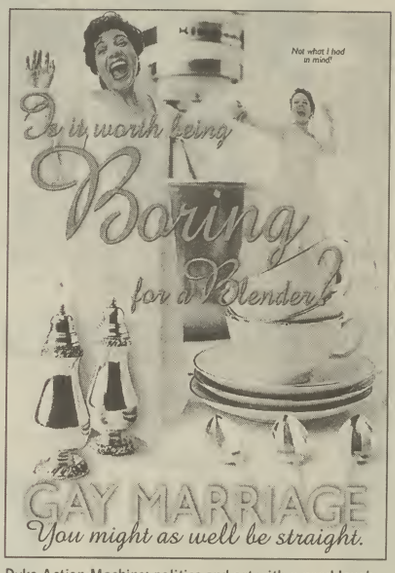
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Moving images

Three exhibits of gay interest at YBC

by Robert Julian

If anyone ever questioned the diversity of the gay experience, three current exhibits at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts could erase all doubt on the matter. Visitors will discover a delightful tribute to San Francisco's own Cockettes tucked away on the museum's second floor, appropriately located in a world of its own. Filmmakers Bill Weber and David Weissman, whose documentary *The Cockettes* opens tomorrow at the Castro Theatre, curate an exhibition of 33 still photographs of the group. And what a collection it is.



Dyke Action Machine: politics and art with a good laugh.

From the moment I stepped into the exhibition, I found it simply impossible to wipe the grin off my face, until I was forced to tear myself away from the last image. Most of these large photographic prints (in B&W and color) are circa 1971, when the hippie/queer theater troupe was at the zenith of its popularity. The Cockettes are photographed in their communal residence, on the streets of San Francisco, and in Manhattan, the scene of the group's great theatrical debacle. All the images are compelling, but some of the most delightful prints are the work of photographer Bud Lee.

There is a small collection of Cockettes memorabilia included in the exhibit, but nothing speaks more eloquently than the photographs from the period. Weber and Weissman deserve credit for putting together a show that reflects the inspired lunacy of person, time, and place as effectively as their delightful film documentary.

D.A.M. lesbians

Agitprop lesbian activism has its say in the exhibition *Straight to Hell: 10 Years of Dyke Action Machine!* Photographer Sue Schaffner and painter Carrie Moyer are the creative forces behind Dyke Action Machine, the women personally responsible for a series of poster campaigns plastered throughout Manhattan. Their twisted take on even more twisted mainstream advertising campaigns demonstrates an ability to make an effective artistic and political statement while giving everyone a good laugh.

The exhibition currently on display at Yerba Buena is mounted, ceiling to floor, in one room. Posters and photographs plaster the walls, and a large central table displays smaller pieces of ephemera, as well as several books which illuminate themes central to Dyke Action Machine. There are also two computer terminals that allow visitors to log on to their new website, www.gynadome.com (yes, you *can* try this at home). Gynadome, and its accompanying poster, posit the existence of an entire lesbian planet inhabited by techno-resistant females. Visitors can enter a chat room and share their impressions with others, but they need to watch their language — techies will be punished.

One of the smartest posters on display is from a campaign questioning the concept of gay marriage. The predominant image in "Gay Marriage: You Might as Well Be Straight" shows two smiling women holding hands in bridal gowns, surrounded by kitchen appliances. The text reads: "Is it worth being boring for a blender? Gay marriage. You might as well be straight." It's a concept worthy of consideration.

In dreamtime

How many filmmakers do you know who are black, gay, and British? One of them is represented in *The Film Art of Isaac Julien*, the filmmaker receiving this year's Frameline Award from San Francisco's gay/lesbian film fest. The exhibition in the main gallery space of Yerba Buena Center is a multimedia presentation of several of Julien's short cinematic works. *The Long Road to Mazatlan* (1999) is shown on a large, three-screen rear-projection device; *Three (The Conservator's Dream)* (1996-99) appears on three flat-screen LCD monitors; and *Trussed* (1996), a meditation on bondage and trust, appears on a curved cyclorama in two parallel mirror images.

Julien's cinematic work is characterized by extremely beautiful visual images that are often enigmatic and dreamlike. The nature of the work makes his films the perfect candidate for this type of presentation. Visitors may walk through and around the constantly unfolding images, without making an extensive time commitment to any one work, or they may view the films from start to finish.

At the entry to the exhibition, there is a small collection of still images taken from Julien's film work that supplement the film and video presentation. Four images from *Trussed* effectively cascade down a wall opposite the gallery's central staircase, but the bulk of the images extracted from his films do not make a successful transition to still photography. Some of the problems may be due to the technological limitations of the transfer process, but moving images that are so dreamy and evocative morph into grainy and out-of-focus still prints. The result does not serve the work well.

The Film Art of Issac Julien; Straight to Hell: 10 Years of Dyke Action Machine; and *The Cockettes* run concurrently at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts through July 14. Call (415) 978-2782 or visit www.YerbaBuenaArts.org. ▼

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'Shakespeare's R&J' at New Conservatory

by Richard Dodds

Shakespeare's R&J is like *Romeo and Juliet* squared. Joe Calarco's adaptation of the classic tale of sexual awakenings is performed as a play within the play by a young cast also dealing with sexual awakenings. That the young cast is comprised of males only adds to the complexities of this story of forbidden love between both sets of characters.

Calarco's adaptation, which he also directed, was well-received during an off-Broadway run four years ago, and it is now receiving a passionate Bay Area premiere at New Conservatory Theatre Center.

Director George Maguire and his cast of four fresh faces have created a vital theatrical experience based on the original that is largely devoid of the usual production accouterments. The stage is a blank space except for three wooden boxes that are variously moved, shoved, and drummed upon. The costumes are only the matching blazers, ties, and khaki pants that are the uniforms of a regimented Catholic prep school. And the props consist just of a swatch of red cloth and a book.

Ah, but the book that these four students stumble upon when their rote studies are finished is *Romeo and Juliet*. At first, acting out scenes from the play is a tension-relieving lark. They throw themselves into the fight scenes, having fun impersonating the supporting characters, and even though all four appear to be straight-identified, they don't mind playing out the budding romance between Romeo and Juliet. At least, not at first.

But when the two boys who have taken on the title roles begin to communicate a bit too realistically the sexual energies between their characters, the other boys become increasingly uncomfortable. So unnerved is one of the boys by the wedding scene that he literally rips the offending pages from the book. In the end, the characters have discovered new passions that are still to be sorted out.

It is a remarkable foursome who bring to new life this ancient story, dealing not only with the rigors of Shakespeare's dialogue, but also of communicating their own characters' prejudices while capturing the essences of the characters that Shakespeare created. On top of all this, there is their precise rendering of the strenuous but intricate movements provided by Maguire and combat choreographer John Tracy.

The four actors play multiple roles, but each has one or more signature characters: Brent Rosenbaum as Romeo, Taylor Valentine as Juliet, Ian Petroni as Lady Capulet and Friar Laurence, and Nick Tagas as the Nurse and Tybalt. They create an exquisite ensemble performance under Maguire's meticulous yet heated direction. Note should also be made of Brian Jones, whose elaborate but precise lighting design effectively mirrors the shifting drama onstage.

In *Shakespeare's R&J*, you get two plays that are happening simultaneously, and both have been beautifully realized. Don't miss this rare theatrical experience. ▼

Shakespeare's R&J will run at NCTC through June 29. Tickets ($18-$28): call 861-8972.



Lois Tema

Catholic schoolboys learn romance: the ensemble cast at NCTC.

20th-century fox

David Robertson at Davies

by Philip Campbell



J. Henry Fair

Robertson: a solid pedigree.

Conductor David Robertson has joined the small but growing list of guest artists making regular visits to Davies Symphony Hall. We are learning to expect exciting and offbeat repertoire whenever he appears, as well as fresh insights into more familiar fare. His latest fortnight on the podium should assure another return invitation.

Olivier Messiaen's magnificent *Turangalila Symphony* was the most impressive offering this time around and, at 80 minutes, the longest. Still, the evening-long performance fairly flew by in a dazzling explosion of color and tingling aural stimulation. From the brash and thrilling Introduction to the radiant Finale, Robertson showed a mastery of the intricate score that communicated to his players and simply wowed the audience.

Messiaen's love for and academic obsession with birds is everywhere in *Turangalila,* as well as his mystical religiosity. Catholic values might not square with the overt sensuality of the piece, but the composer's devotion was of the ecstatic variety, and this symphony definitely travels to seventh heaven.

A paean to love, magical and majestic, the title is Sanskrit, joining "Turanga" (time passing) to "Lila" (love, life and death). In 10 movements, Messiaen runs the gamut with remarkable and lush orchestration, bordering on the very brink of vulgarity.

Not everyone responds favorably to his rapturous flights of fancy or his obvious belief in Wagnerian "Liebestod." What cannot be denied is the startling audacity or originality of the score — if one listens closely, there is even a whiff of Gershwin in the Garden of Love. Of course, the lovers are closer to Tristan and Isolde or Pelleas and Melisande than Porgy and Bess, but the sheer daring of Messiaen's vision is intoxicating.

Essaying the important solo parts, pianist Roger Muraro (in his San Francisco Symphony debut) made a brilliant impression, undaunted by the range of expression demanded of him; and Cynthia Miller played the exotic ondes martenot expertly. From the crashing chords of the opening to the exquisite evocations of birdsong, Muraro remained in firm but rhythmically free form. Miller maintained a lower profile, sabotaged somewhat by the acoustical mysteries of Davies. The sonorities of her strange and enchanting instrument were, nonetheless, an important part of the lush orchestral palette.

Solid rearing

Robertson's pedigree in this music is solid. As current Music Director of the Orchestre National de Lyon as well as Artistic Director of Lyon's Auditorium and former Music Director of the prestigious Ensemble Intercontemporain in Paris, he has made a career steeped in 20th-century music. That rearing and intelligence was also apparent in his most recent concerts last week.

Starting that program with the first SFS performances of Kurt Weill's delectable *Kleine Dreigroschenmusik,* Suite for Wind Orchestra from *The Threepenny Opera,* the Santa Monica-born conductor again asserted his international education. The results were nowhere near as satisfying as the flawless *Turangalila,* but he put a very personal stamp on the cabaret classicism of the likewise sophisticated Weill.

Willfully ignoring the dance-band tempos that make the Suite so catchy, Robertson instead chose a slow and romantic approach. It worked best in the Tango Ballad; and the lovely Polly's Song and the Overture and Finale, with their Bach and Handel flavorings, were delightful. The ensemble couldn't cope with his languorous treatment of the other numbers, but one could appreciate what he was after, and there was some downright sexy solo playing.

The next piece, Frank Martin's Petite Symphonie concertante, was the undisputed hit of the evening, drawing several calls and a warm ovation. As an introduction to the music of a composer

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Prima ballerinas

Feijoo, Tan shine in SF Ballet's 'Giselle'

by Stephanie von Buchau

Concern over the departure of two prominent San Francisco Ballet ballerinas at the end of this season was nullified last weekend with the company's final program, Helgi Tomasson's sturdy staging of the full-length *Giselle*. Though fan interest naturally centers on the May 11 performance in which Joanna Berman makes her farewell to SFB, the first two *Giselle* evenings clarified the company's future.

They starred Lorena Feijoo and Yuan Yuan Tan, who are now, *de facto*, SFB's reigning prima ballerinas. This is not to slight principals Julia Adam, Julie Diana, Tina LeBlanc, Kristin Long, Muriel Maffre or Katita Waldo, all valuable, even cherishable dancers. Yet for sheer, audience-galvanizing star power, Feijoo and Tan are SFB's glamour girls. Luckily for us, they are also both exquisite artists.

I've written repeatedly about why I like both dancers, and these performances not only confirmed everything I'd previously felt, they added new insights. For instance, one expects the Cuban Feijoo to be naturally fiery and emotive, while Shanghai-born Tan has sometimes disconcerted viewers with her coolness. On this occasion, their roles were reversed. Feijoo's mad scene was classical and passionate, but contained within the correct gestures and steps, with the emotions naturally distilled.

Tan's mad scene was almost Kabuki-like. Her beautiful, often impassive face was wild with anguish, her eyes huge and terrified, her mouth sometimes contorted with pain. Those little, remembered phrases from the duets with Albrecht, which she had previously danced with airy liquefaction, were now angularized and accented daringly off the beat.

This was all the more interesting because in Act II Tan became so otherworldly as Giselle's spirit that even her face looked different, now iconic and serene as opposed to the joyous and then frantic girl of the previous act. This contrast made it seem as if two different women were dancing the part, and displayed unexpected depths of artistic imagination on Tan's part. Whoever is coaching her is onto something important.

Feijoo, on the other hand, kept the connection between the two acts. As she dances to keep her feckless lover alive, her spirit remains humanly compassionate. Feijoo's Giselle is going to suffer for eternity; Tan's is probably going to become the next Queen of the Wilis. In addition to all this psychological "acting," both dancers were technically superb. Tan is perhaps a little lighter and softer; Feijoo, the more mature artist, articulates each series of steps so that they make a perfectly phrased expressive sequence.



Andrea Flores

Yuan Yuan Tan, Vadim Solomakha



Andrea Flores

Lorena Feijoo dances the title role in Helgi Tomasson's full-length *Giselle*.

Needless to say, their rock-steady balances, delicate pointe work, airy jumps, beautiful arabesques, eloquent epaulement and those blinding smiles — both women are incredibly attractive outside the blonde-bland American model — were absolute perfection. I don't remember ever seeing two *Giselles* (or *Swan Lakes*, for that matter) danced back-to-back by any company in which the leading ladies were so fabulous. What a change from the previous two SFB *Giselles*, in which the opening-night dancer was not up to the part.

The musical presentation matched the lofty level of the ballerinas. I've been bitching about the SFB orchestra and conducting since Denis de Coteau died. I'm still not sure they've found the answer to their problems in the young Brit Paul Hoskins, who led both performances, but, aside from some awkward brass and percussion noises early on, his conducting of Adolphe Adam's score — with Tomasson's overly-extended, not-so-great additions to Act I — was rhythmically sharp, extremely poetic (Paul Erlich's viola solo in Act II helped a lot) and supportive of the dancers.

Otherwise, the production has not changed that much. Mikael Melbye's sets are still not quite right in my eyes. You can't see Albrecht's house from the right or Giselle's grave from the left, but the lighting is helpful in allowing Tomasson's staging details, including the meaningfully delivered mime, to register fully.

Besides the title role, the dancing was good though not great. Maffre looks like she should be an ideal Queen of the Wilis, but her arabesques penchees are not nearly deep enough, and her clanking pointes nullify the idea of Myrtha as an incorporeal spirit. Anita Paciotti made a sympathetic mother, and Tiekka Schofield was the haughty yet not cruel Bathilde. Both nights, my susceptible female companions preferred Damian Smith's manly Hilarion to the putative hero. So what else is new?

Yuri Possokhov partnered Feijoo impeccably, and she inspired him to act more than he ever has in this role. (Berman should turn the same trick on May 11.) Yet his romantic hero days are probably over as far as the technical stuff goes. He might as well have not even attempted the brises voles in Act II.

Vadim Solomakha did them better; he's a purer classicist than most of the company males. He's also Tan's best partner in this kind of work, though she is now outdancing him most of the time. Still, their tender, unforced intimacy continues to be touching in both acts. They remind me a little of Natasha Makarova and Ivan Nagy, and I can't think of anything in ballet more subtly, satisfyingly romantic than that particular partnership. ▼

Getting in 'Harm's Way'

Stephen Pelton, Lea Wolf at ODC

by Michael Wade Simpson

On the local modern dance scene, the facts of having just a few decent places to perform, a handful of cheap places to rehearse, and a choice of two or three studios with professional-caliber classes, keeps things small, for better and for worse. The advantage is the sense of community here, where you'll see people from every dance company performing in or sitting in the audience at every other dance company performance. But it also tends to make the work look the same, with ideas and techniques swapped as readily as gossip. It's good when new folks come to town, and even better when, as in the case of Stephen Pelton and Lea Wolf, the local talent takes a sabbatical.

Pelton has been teaching in London, while Wolf's gig took her to Alabama, of all places. Both are back with new ideas, experiences, and work to show. They'll offer up these pieces at a joint concert at ODC Theater on May 16-18.



Elizabeth Goreink

London got Pelton out of his rut.

London, according to Pelton, is "drenched with people into the theatre and dance," an energy and excitement that "feeds me," he said. And it's cheap! He recalls seeing artists like Judi Dench and Alan Rickman at the theatre for $15. Beyond the opportunity to observe, however, Pelton found that Europe offered him the op-

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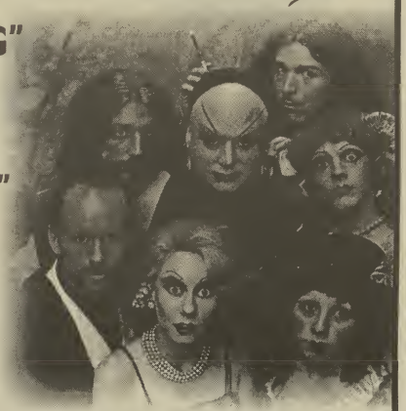
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- Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE

"THE BEST TIME I HAD AT THE MOVIES"
- David Ansen, NEWSWEEK at the Sundance Film Festival

"TOO GOOD FOR WORDS"
- SAN FRANCISCO BAY GUARDIAN

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Serial madness and easy targets

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Edmund Burke said (so succinctly) all that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing. That statement can be applied to much that has gone on in the news this week — coverage of the Middle East, and coverage of the crisis in the Catholic Church. In each are scapegoats — the Jews and the queers (interesting, since each group is considered by conservatives and bigots to be in control of the media), ever the easy targets of millennia of hatred.

The carnage in the Middle East may have eased (for a time), but the evils being perpetrated there and emanating from there continue unabated. Yet the global silence is deafening. The rise of anti-Semitism throughout Europe 70 years ago went, in a world without television, unremarked until the Holocaust had been burnt into the annals of history with the seared flesh of millions. It is easy to look at pictures of the bombed-out Palestinian refugee town that was Jenin and, rightly, feel tremendous empathy for those who lived there. But the international TV cameras fail to register the pain and suffering elsewhere, like in Hebron, where Palestinian gunmen went house to house last weekend murdering Jews in their beds, including several children. Or in the streets of France, where Jewish children have become constant victims of anti-Semitic attacks in recent weeks, even as the anti-Semitic Fascist Jean-Marie Le Pen is lauded by 30 percent of the electorate. Where are the cameras to record the torment echoing from those fronts? Is there no room for more than one victim?

TV and its cameras purport to be objective. "The camera doesn't lie" has long been an axiom. And the camera doesn't lie; however, the cameraman rarely is impassive, and the reportage accompanying any given photograph can alter its message considerably.



Lavender Tube

Queers who watched the AIDS epidemic portrayed on TV saw two epidemics, that of the "innocent" victims of the disease — children, recipients of blood transfusions, hemophiliacs — and those who contracted the disease "of their own volition" — IV drug-users, prostitutes, gay men; surely queers must understand the subtle complexities of presentation. *All* the victims of Middle East violence have suffered egregiously. Not all Palestinians are suicide bombers, nor all Israelis imperialists in tanks. We would all do to be reminded, then, that anti-Semitism, like homophobia, pumps beneath the surface of TV news coverage like a blood beat.

Taking the blame

That blood beat coursed through the Sunday talk shows last week, which divided their time between the crisis in the Middle East and the crisis in America's Catholic Church. As Jews have become the media scapegoats for the violence in Israel and the Palestinian territories, gay priests have become the scapegoats for the wave of pedophilia in the Church. The May 2 arrest of Rev. Paul Shanley, proponent of NAMBLA and its pedophiliac perversity, on charges of rape and molestation of a series of young boys, only further served to complicate the issue.

The Church would have the nation's Catholics and others believe pedophiliac priests are a symptom of a priesthood "infected," in the words of Philadelphia Cardinal Anthony Bevilaqua, with "homosexuals." But as queers who have long heard the erroneous correlation know, such is not the case. Serial pedophiles like Father John Geoghan, recently sentenced for rape in Boston, and Shanley, known by the Church to have been molesting youngsters for years, have as much in common with the majority of gay men (priests or not) as alleged serial rapist Tony Graves has with the average straight man. The Church using TV news and talk shows to implicate gay priests rather than take responsibility for protecting serial pedophiles for generations only aggravates an already egregious situation. The homophobic commentary of various bishops and cardinals on the network talk shows may not be violent, like the anti-Semitic attacks in France, but it has the potential to lead to violence.

Violence will continue to be the topic of *Nightline* this week and next, as Ted Koppel interviews Yasser Arafat and Ariel Sharon among others, in an attempt to create dialogue and dispel myths about what is occurring in the Middle East. More than any other TV journalist, Koppel has attempted to present an even-handed look at the violence and its consequences, without appearing to take sides, despite being a Holocaust survivor himself.

Green party

On non-news TV, the season is winding down with the usual May sweeps drama. *ER* has been jerking tears with the dying and now death of lead character Dr. Mark Green from cancer (and using the character to address the escalating rate of cancer in the US). Green, played with aplomb and understated poignancy by Anthony Edwards for eight seasons, will make his final appearance tonight in an episode that both recaps his years in the *ER* and his final days. (He "died" in last week's episode.) The show has also used Green's death to further the storylines of other characters, notably Dr. John Carter (Noah Wylie) and Dr. Kerrie Weaver (Laura Innes). Weaver's response to Green's death has driven her closer to her lesbian lover, paramedic Nancy Lopez (Lisa Vidal), and caused her to come out publicly to her coworkers after years in the closet. Stay tuned to this storyline right up till the final episode in three weeks.

NBC has swept the spotlight and ratings during sweeps month, bringing in stars of former hit series like *Cheers* to appear on *Frasier*, and *St. Elsewhere* to appear on *Scrubs*. Ten-year anniversary shows of Jay Leno's *Tonight Show* and *Dateline* are also taking center stage. We admit we enjoyed seeing Glenn Close on *Will & Grace* last week, even if we found the appearance of the award-winning actress to be somewhat beneath her myriad talents and bespeaking the larger problem for actresses of a certain age. (We also liked seeing her kiss Will *and* Grace.)

Other NBC shows that bear watching in the final weeks are of course *The West Wing* and *Law & Order: SVU*. For those who still miss *LA Law*, Sunday (May 12) will bring a reunion of sorts to NBC with *LA Law: The Movie*, for those who won't be watching the fabulous special effects on ABC's miniseries *Dinotopia*, which we recommend.

Stay tuned during sweeps to ABC's *All My Children*. Lesbian diva-in-training Bianca Montgomery (Emmy-nominated Eden Riegel) got drunk last week and made a pass at her murdered lover's twin sister, Maggie (Elizabeth Hendrickson — can we blame her?) Maggie, unlike her twin so not queer, freaked out and kicked Bianca to the curb. Meanwhile, everyone (including Maggie's cousin, David) took Bianca's side in the debacle, leaving Maggie to want to leave town. Maybe. (Hendrickson just signed a longterm contract. Maybe Maggie could be more queer than she thinks?)

Also stay tuned to see what happens to the rumored talk show in negotiation between Bill Clinton and NBC. Clinton allegedly wants a talk show *à la* Oprah, with an Oprah-like salary of $50 million. No one is actually debunking this story, so it must have some basis in fact, unless it's just another ratings booster. But we can't imagine a more titillating host than Clinton. Bill Maher meets Jerry Springer. Ink the deal, NBC, ink the deal.

Finally, our TV moment of the week came when Arafat went to survey the damage in Jenin and called the site "a very bad thing done by very bad people." Someone proffered a little girl of about four who was holding a Palestinian flag to Arafat to kiss. As he pushed his grizzled face into hers, she burst into tears, shrieking in Arabic that he was terrifying. Out of the mouths of babes. ▼



ODC Theater

◀ previous page

portunity to "get out of the rut I'm into — think about what I don't know — accept my limitations more readily."

Back in San Francisco, he's been working for six hours a day on the new pieces, "back in that unstable place. Just to be in that mindset is the most important thing to me."

For Wolf, a big new experiment has been to create a piece with a very simple movement language. "Have I been distracted by virtuosity?" she asked herself. Her new piece, *Story*, includes a multigenerational cast, and is based on a poem by Mark Strand that evokes for her the "mystery of experience and the impenetrability of fate." She pairs an older couple with a younger couple who might be versions of themselves, or a version of the story they tell about themselves: an older self longing for a younger one; a couple watching one another age; the frustration of being locked inside a single narrative, a single life.

The two choreographers share what they call a fondness for "beautiful movement." Wolf puts it this way: "motion itself as a source of meaning."

Pelton's new *Harm's Way* is a high-energy group work that imagines itself in the America of the early '60s, when paranoia and the fear of nuclear disaster have just begun to hit. A reprise is the setting of his work *Rain* (1992), originally "two guys in business suits, fighting and fucking," on two women. The female dancers, whom Pelton calls "sweet," have to call upon considerable reserves of acting talent to pull out the violence and competitiveness that, for the original dancers, was an easy, instinctual, male kind of thing.

Wolf has assembled a cast of dancers from across the country to perform with her in this concert, "convening people I respect into a community around an idea. I make dance in order to think about ideas or questions, so beneath the structure of any dance lies a struggle to understand." ▼

ODC Theater presents *Hauntings*, dances by Lea Wolf and Stephen Pelton Dance Theater, May 16-18, 8 p.m. 3153 17th St., SF. Tickets ($18): (415) 863-9834.

May is busting out all over

Art in San Francisco galleries this month

by Will Shank

My favorite art event of the past month took place one windy April night at the San Francisco Dump, er, make that the Sanitary Fill Company, down near the Cow Palace. The remarkable Artist-in-Residence Program there presents an annual reception to showcase the work of resident artists, four of whom are chosen every year from a large field of applicants. Refuse is turned into art by these select few, who work in the 1,200-square-ft. studio near the 44-acre recycling center. And it doesn't smell nearly as bad as you might imagine. Among the permanent collection pieces are surprisingly beautiful bowls made of vandalized glass from San Francisco bus shelters. "Don't go breaking bus shelters for us!" reads their website at www.sunsetscavenger.com/air_about_us.htm.

Meanwhile, back in the City, almost every gallery in town installed new spring shows in early May. Among the best are the following:

Vik Munoz at Rena Bransten, 77 Geary Street, is best known for photographing his own artworks made of chocolate syrup dripped into shapes of Old Master paintings. Here he has photographed and enlarged arrangements of Pantone color chips which, when viewed from afar, behave visually like enormous pixels to form images which, in this case, emulate Monet's *Haystack* paintings.

Next door at the Graystone Gallery until June 1, a mini-retrospective of the 1980s and 1990s work of David Maxim fills the walls, bulging out into the viewer's space with its rugged masculinity — a bit like the local artist himself. Several of the larger works are especially filled with vitality, suggesting an action that has just been completed, as in the case of an enormous wooden bucket which appears to have spilled its contents onto the wall panel behind it from just over the viewer's head.

Edward Burtynsky is having the second show in a little more than a year of his color photographs of an abandoned shipyard at the Robert Koch Gallery, 49 Geary Street. Never has rust been photographed more beautifully than in *Shipbreaking: The Second Voyage*, through June 29.

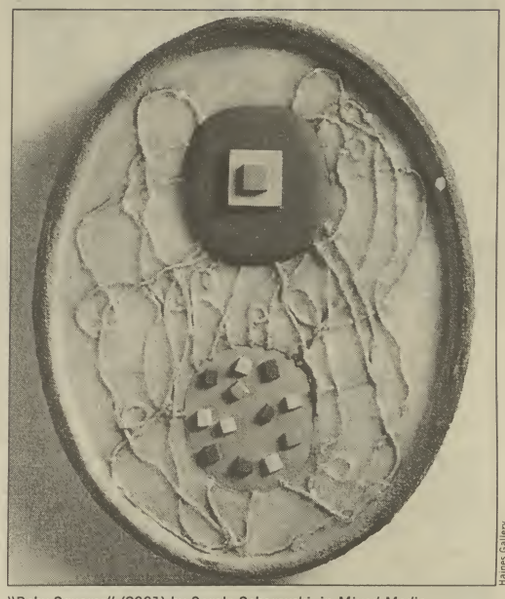
The tidy little wall sculptures of Carole Seborovski in the back room (*Mixed Media*) at Haines Gallery, 49 Geary Street, are deceptive at first. What appears two-dimensional, upon reflection betrays a third dimension of unexpected, and occasionally indecipherable, materials. Continuing through May 18.

Fine lines

Once you pass the chaotic, inventive SoMa graffiti art of Barry McGee at Gallery Paule Anglim, (14 Geary Street), you reach the quiet oasis of fine line drawings by Dean Smith, who is enjoying his second Anglim show in the back room. Arranged together in the gallery's smaller space by the artist and gallerist, the abstract drawings illustrate the beauty of the meticulous mind. New works with metallic colors are particularly well-suited to Smith's technique, and they make the interplay of positive and negative space in his work especially intriguing.

Giving Smith a run for his money at Hosfelt Gallery (430 Clementina Street) are the globes of Russell Crotty, who delineates finely rendered landscapes in ink on large spheres suspended from the gallery ceiling. Exhibition ends on May 25.

While you're downtown, stop at SFMOMA to see the final days of the landmark Eva Hesse retrospective, its only US venue, before it leaves for Europe on May 19. And for something completely different, check out the fourth-floor video galleries for a pleasurable look at the work of Swiss-American artist Christian Marclay. It's all about editing for this sound and visual artist, who is represented by a clever kinetic sound sculpture, *Tape Fall* (1989), in the smaller gallery, and the newly commissioned four-channel video collage of found footage in the massive central video gallery. *Video Quartet* presents rapid-fire images snipped from commercial films from Hollywood and abroad, juxtaposed and choreographed to keep the viewer's eyes and ears in a constant state of excitement. There is also the occasionally lyrical symphonic moment. Marilyn Monroe and Barbra Streisand (as Fanny Brice) simultaneously snap their fans open on adjacent screens, and Ann Miller gets the most video time doing a tap dance while sitting down. In spite of the oh-so-gay sensibility of the subject matter, SFMOMA media curator Benjamin Weil assures me that Marclay is "straight as an ace." If the whole presentation teeters dangerously close to an opening montage for the Academy Awards, its overall effect is one of musical delight. Through July 28. ▼



Haines Gallery

"Baby Squares" (2001) by Carole Seborovski, in *Mixed Media*



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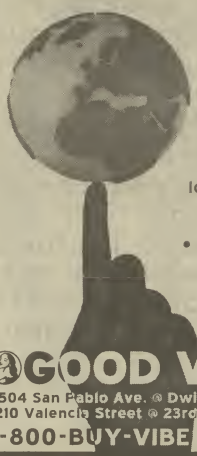
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The triumph of a stuffed crotch

Mira Sorvino passes as male in new film

by Brandon Judell

Name a film without any gay characters that's more gay than a film with gay characters. Give up? *Triumph of Love* is the answer, if the question ever appears on *Jeopardy.*

This frenetically-paced, gender-bending adaptation of Pierre Marivaux's classic 18th-century romantic comedy deems that clothes do make the man — or more accurately, the woman into a man.

Mira Sorvino stars as a princess whose father unfairly seized the throne of her kingdom, killing the previous king and possibly the queen. The now-dead rulers had a son, Agis (Jay Rodan), who disappeared and is now said to be under the tutelage of the philosopher Hemocrates (Sir Ben Kingsley). The goal of his education: to kill the princess and regain his rightful kingdom.

The guilty princess, who agrees Agis should have the throne, searches out her possible slayer to make amends. But as Cupid would have it, she initially spots him emerging nude from a lake. The young man, as the gods would have it, is astonishingly beautiful, with a perfect behind that defies gravity. Instantly she's in love.

But what is a princess to do in such a dilemma?

This one decides to dress herself and her servant up as men, get on to Hemocrates' estate, and win the lad over to her side. Her main problem is Hemocrates detests love and has trained Agis to despise the wasteful emotion, along with all women. The one exception is Hemocrates' sister Leontine (British lesbian icon Fiona Shaw), who's an aging scientist.



Mina Sorvino as the crossdressing Princess in *Triumph of Love.*

Before you can shout, "Lady Bunny," the princess has become Agis' best male friend and Leontine's fiancé. As for the arrogant Hemocrates, who has sneered at the "weaker" sex all his life, he gets turned on for the first time in his unimpassioned life by a woman dressed up as a man, knowing well that the young man is a woman. Naturally, he becomes the princess' fiancé, too.

Oh, Lord! Has someone bitten off more than she can chew?

This charming, playfully-acted farce turns out well for its characters and for us. Two minor complaints are the annoyingly strident editing and director Clare Peploe's grating whim that the cast is performing a play for a live audience. Every now and then as a character is running for cover, he or she runs into a group of modern-dressed, seated spectators. To find out why, you'll have to phone Peploe.

That aside, here's a literate, witty, and comely entertainment well worth the price of a bottle of mascara or two. For trivia fans, Bernardo Bertolucci is both co-writer and producer of this treat. ▼

***Triumph of Love* opens Friday.**

SF Symphony

◀ *page* 28

who deserves more recognition, Robertson chose well.

He was also well-served by his trio of soloists. Symphony musicians Douglas Rioth, harp; Marc Shapiro, piano; and Robin Sutherland, harpsichord, all played admirably, lending important dramatic interest amid the rich sound of the double-string orchestra.

The relatively brief score could sound a little ponderous in the wrong hands, but Robertson kept things lively, and the overall impression was surprisingly moving. Just enough weight and tangy modernism makes a satisfying blend.

The concert closed with a biting traversal of Beethoven's Symphony No. 1 in C major, opus 21. Some have called it the first Romantic symphony, and Robertson seemed bent on proving them right. It might have sounded a little strong for Beethoven's sunny debut in the genre, but it did take the composer some four years to write, and the conductor made clear the importance of the results.

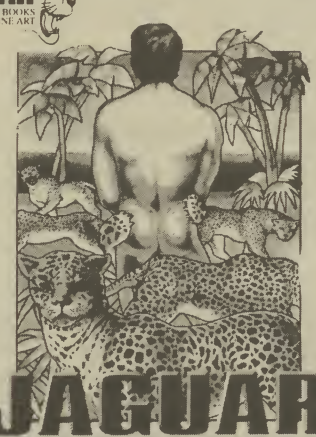
If the Hall wasn't sold out this time, word of mouth should make David Robertson's next visit a hot ticket. Like Michael Tilson Thomas, he combines a charismatic stage presence with great taste in programming and an ability to bring out the best in his musicians. ▼

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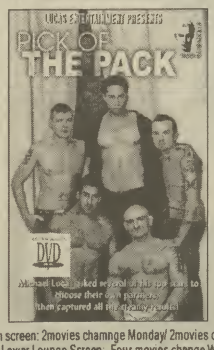
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FILM

The Cockettes

◀ page 25

Berkeley all in one program — it was people going to those things and dressing up that ultimately got together and became the Cockettes. That whole notion of dressing up was so much a part of San Francisco in that hippie period."

Weber adds that not only did the Cockettes emerge from the audience, they usually invited audience members onstage to perform. "That's what they didn't get in New York."

Free-love living

Another thing they didn't get in New York was that the Cockettes were a byproduct of San Francisco's huge hippie community (including Janis Joplin, the Diggers' free food in Golden Gate Park, and the Mime Troupe) that featured communal living, group marriage and manifestations of grass-roots socialism as expressed in institutions such as the Food Conspiracy and the Free Print Shop. In the film, Jilala, a supporter of the Cockettes who cooked their meals and expressed their philosophy, describes the group's Kaliflower communal house as having been founded on the principles of the utopian Oneida movement, "which was a Christian exercise in communism."

In *Elevator Girls in Bondage,* a Michael Kalmen-directed campy film that plays like West Coast John Waters, a Cockette, attired in a costume once worn by Joan Bondell, quotes Marx (Karl, not Groucho), "From each according to his abilities, to each according to his needs," or more bluntly, "You can do whatever you want and get what you need!"

LSD was the mothers' milk of the Cockettes. As Sweet Pam says in the film, "We almost brushed our teeth with it. LSD was what freed me up to do what I did." Another biological girl in the troupe, Fayette, notes that drugs contributed to the emphasis on flashy costumes. "People expressed themselves through their look, because a lot of times people would be so stoned they became nonverbal."

John Waters, who credits the Cockettes for providing the first non-Baltimore boost to his 1970 "celluloid atrocity," *Multiple Maniacs,* says you can't ignore how pervasive the drug scene was. "It's something you can't imagine today, going someplace where every person in the audience and onstage was on drugs."

Waters, whose cinema diva, Divine, found a spiritual home performing with the Cockettes in such shows as *Journey to the Center of Uranus* (Divine appearing as the crab on Uranus), explains what his crowd of Baltimore film-terrorists found so appealing about the Cockettes. "They were the first bearded drag queens. They were like hippie acid-freak drag queens, which was really new at the time. It still would be new. You couldn't tell if they were men or women — straight people, too. It was complete sexual anarchy, which is always a wonderful thing."



Sweet Pam, Pristine Condition and John Rothermel of the Cockettes.

Clay Geerdes

Parade of perversity

Not everybody was pleased at the sexual integration of the troupe. Goldie Glitters, who has the starring role in the Cockette film travesty *Tricia's Wedding,* maintains to this day that "the Cockettes should have been all guys, should have been 12 guys."

Audience members Cara and Sal, who felt inspired to crossdress for these occasions, explain that one of the hardest things to understand about the Cockettes from today's politically correct perspective was that "there was no such word as genderbender. You never heard transsexual, transgender. You're not allowed to have the gay parade without everything included. This had everything included, with no names, no tags — these were like real people, nothing to grab onto."

Editor Weber has performed a magician's job of giving filmgoers a warts-and-all sense of being present at actual Cockettes shows, a sense of the magic and spontaneity of seeing butt-naked people cavorting around the stage performing to the limits of their talent and imagination. Some of the patched-together snippets of performance give off the naive charm of a high-school variety show. Others, such as the debut of Sylvester during the troupe's stab at gospel, give a hint of a breathtaking, heartstopping creation. But as surviving member John Flowers reminds us, the Cockettes were a troupe of fitfully inspired amateurs. "Will success spoil mediocrity? That was secretly our motto." Jilala recalls a frequent bone of contention — the two bucks charged for the midnight shows at the Palace — and quotes his manifesto against paid shows, "Magicians who do paid performances, it's as if they were pulling dead rabbits out of hats. I saw spiritual people doing vaudeville."



Going to the outer limits of their talent and imagination: *The Cockettes.*

David Wise

Dusty Dawn, whose great trick was her "underwater singing," recalls it took a lot of patience to assemble a Cockettes show, on the part of the troupe's few actual trained musicians, such as Richard "Scrumbly" Koldewyn and Peter Mintun. "A lot of people were tone-deaf, a lot of people couldn't dance, but when you were onstage, a lot of people thought you were the greatest." Interviewed for the film in the wake of his own fabulous musical career, Mintun notes, "I don't remember who the first pianist was, but I think they drove him stark raving mad. Everybody seemed to want to live in the fantasy of the old movie musical."

Interviewed before he died in May 2001, Reggie Dunnigan, who as "Eartha Kitt" had poured LSD in the punchbowl in *Tricia's Wedding,* evoked the lasting philosophy of the Cockettes. "I feel that the world for the most part is shit: Just give me a torn dress, a hit of acid, and let's go to the beach." ▼

***The Cockettes* plays the Castro Theatre from May 10-30.**

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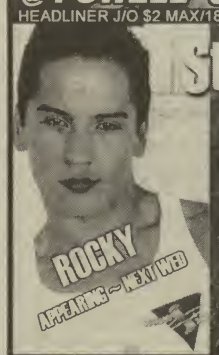
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John Leguizamo

◀ *Arts cover*

for my own viewing pleasure," Leguizamo said after a pause as he considered the request.

No, no, just the shirt, said I. We're looking for a little top-al nudity, you know, pandering to our audience, and maybe selling a few more tickets.

"You don't think I can sell tickets unless I show off my body? What are you trying to say, mister?"

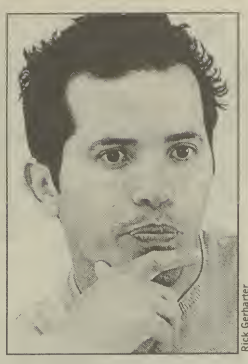
The shirt stayed on, and as the photographer maneuvered him about the room, Leguizamo acknowledged that *Sexaholix* is meant to be a sexy show. He laughed when he was reminded that Michael Musto, the *Village Voice*'s gay gossip columnist, likened the show to "a really good fuck."

"There's so much sexuality in it that when my mom comes to see the show, I tell her to sit where I can't see her or hear her," the good son said. "It's just too odd."

Libido laboratory

In the show, Leguizamo provides a freewheeling journey through his own sexual adventuring, with plenty of detours that offer the performer opportunities to create outsized impressions of characters both real and imagined. The payoff to all this libido rummaging is his current state of domestic happiness with the woman he describes as his "soulmate" and their two kids.

While Leguizamo does portray with affectionate humor his gay aunt and uncle, the sex in *Sexaholix* is pretty much heterosexual. Still, he draws a significant gay audience, an appeal first stirred by his divine drag-queen performance in *To Wong Foo*... .



Rick Gerharter

'Laugh at who you pretend to be.'

And then there is the sexual heat in the dirty-dancing energies that often overtake his onstage persona. "There is a lot of gyrating pelvis going on," he said. "The movement starts coming and you have to go with it, you know. It has a life of its own, and so does my pelvis."

Yes, Leguizamo said, he gets hit on occasionally by men. "But the guys who hit on me are respectful," he said. "They're not throwing themselves at me, or trying to grab me or anything. They make a comment, and that's cool. I'll take a compliment any day where I can get it."

It's hard to imagine that this self-confident bantam was once the geeky kid who got picked on. Born in Colombia, Leguizamo grew up in New York, where he had to learn to think fast. "Around 13 or 14, I became a lot cooler," he said. "My parents got divorced and we moved to a tough neighborhood, and I started doing the homework for the tough guys and hanging out with them. I became cool."

Cool but troubled. His mother had fled from his father because of his alcohol-fueled abuse, and Leguizamo later found a therapeutic outlet for his anger at his father through his show *Freak*.

"That show let me say tons of shit that I never thought I'd be able to say to my dad," Leguizamo said. "I didn't know he had seen the show. He came to my dressing room while I was talking to Mike Myers, to drop a name, and all of a sudden I see this angry face. And he was really mad, and we fought, and he yelled and I yelled louder, and he cried and we hugged."

Leguizamo plans a far different relationship with his kids, both under 2, even as he values the good and bad of his own upbringing for forging the successful man of today. "Sometimes I feel a little sadness that my kids are going to grow up too privileged," he said. "When you don't have it, you have to make things happen, you create your own fun. It was so exciting. I used to hang out on the street all night. My kids are not going to do that."

Leguizamo calls his kids "Jeworicans," a combination of his girlfriend's religion and his own Puerto Rican heritage. "I'm a recovering Catholic," he said. "I'm not religious now. We're just grains of sand in this passage of time. You get to do what you get to do during your lifespan, and that's it."

And, he said, you're far better off if you think of your life as a punchline. "Life is ridiculous," Leguizamo said. "The fiber of life, everything it throws at you, is ridiculous. If you start taking things so seriously, you can't achieve or enjoy it as much. Laugh at yourself. And laugh at who you pretend to be." ▼

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Frankie (Marcia Gay Harden), April (Juliette Lewis), Cassandra (Judy Davis), and Ben (Lili Taylor): unreleased.

Whatever happened to 'Gaudí Afternoon?'

by Alex Robertson Textor

Gaudí Afternoon, the film adaptation of Barbara Wilson's novel of the same name, sailed through the lesbian/gay film festival circuit last year. Starring Judy Davis along with Marcia Gay Harden, Lili Taylor and Juliette Lewis, the film would immediately inspire a distribution fight, one would think. Harden in particular, fresh last spring from her Best Supporting Actress Oscar win, was a huge draw for the film during festival season.

Directed by Susan Seidelman (*Desperately Seeking Susan*), *Gaudí Afternoon* hit a nerve among queer film festival audiences. Heather Findlay, editor of *Girlfriends* magazine, raves, "It was visually a very rich movie, with great delivery." Findlay points in particular to "the whole bait-and-switch around Marcia Gay Harden's character's gender, which was very well done."

And it wasn't just queer festival audiences who were chomping at the bit in anticipation of wide release. In December 2001, Anthony Kaufman of the daily online publication *indieWIRE* included *Gaudí Afternoon* as an "honorable mention" in his yearly listing of films deserving US distribution.

Close to a year after its season of festival airing, the film has not yet found distribution in North America. Outside the US, the film's story is different. Kinowelt, a German film distribution company, has picked *Gaudí Afternoon* up for distribution in German-speaking countries.

Is this sort of distribution delay unusual? Maria Lynn, the new president of lesbian and gay-themed Wolfe Video, notes that such delays are fairly common: "It often takes a few years for a film to find a home," she observes. *Gaudí* may simply be on the slow track to distribution. At the very least, its distribution absence has not gone unnoticed.

Barbara Wilson's backstory

Gaudí Afternoon was not Barbara Wilson's first novel. In 1984, Wilson published the detective novel *Murder in the Collective* through Seal Press, a feminist publishing house that she co-founded in Seattle in 1976. In *Murder* and the two novels that followed, Wilson's lead character Pam Nilsen — who comes out in the series' first novel — sleuths her way through murders set in a very particular Seattle milieu.

Murder and the two novels that followed it, *Sisters of the Road* in 1986 and *The Dog Collar Murders* in 1989, approached somewhat contentious issues in feminist, lesbian and leftist political communities, in a conversational manner.

Gaudí Afternoon, with its translator-protagonist Cassandra Reilly, immediately set a different mood. Whereas Nilsen is settled in a Seattle that serves as her unambiguous home, Reilly has no home. Authenticity and stability are foreign to Reilly, as is any grounded conception of home. Less conversational than confrontational, *Gaudí* explores gender as a plastic and sometimes unknowable presence.

Wilson has maintained the character of Cassandra Reilly in three further books to date. *Gaudí* was followed up by *Trouble in Transylvania* in 1993, *Death of a Much-Traveled Woman* in 1998, and *The Case of the Orphaned Bassoonists* in 2000.

Wilson's *oeuvre* does not start or end with mysteries. Among other books, she has published novels, including *If You Had a Family* in 1996, and a memoir, *Blue Windows: A Christian Science Childhood,* in 1997. ▼

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon

Town's end?

Let us not underestimate what it means that **Club Townsend** is closing, with the big final party less than two months away, on July 6. With the shutting down of the venerable home of **Pleasuredome** and **Universe,** the shape of dance culture as we know it will change irrevocably, shifting in unknown directions, and countless circuit partiers will be set adrift without a dance space to call home.

For the last decade, since it was acquired by promoter **Audrey Joseph** in 1992, Club Townsend's sound system has moved untold thousands of sweat-soaked, ecstatic dancers who have reveled in their sense of freedom, feeling their feet take flight in an electrifying rush of brotherly/sisterly love.

The closure of the 10,000-square foot converted warehouse South of Market will mean the end or relocation not only of those two stalwart weekend dance parties, but of various Latin parties, women's parties, Asian parties, raves, Country & Western dances and the like. The place has been decorated to fit countless themes, including "The Casbah," "Under the Seas," "Jurassic Park," "Jungle Fever," and "Live at the Moulin Rouge." Among the superstars who have performed live on stage at the club are Cindi Lauper, Grace Jones, Chaka Khan, Kristine W., Ultra Nate, Celeda, Kevin Aviance, Ru Paul, and the B52s, and still to come before the drop-dead date are Motorhead (May 17), Lauper (May 25), CeCe Peniston (June 22) and Soft Cell (Mark Almond; June 29). Revelers left out in the cold by Townsend's closing may choose to go elsewhere, including clubs at 1015 Folsom or 550 Barneveld, but nothing can quite replace Townsend's flair for theme nights, or its ability to attract star performers.

Club Universe, launched in 1994 by Joseph along with Ty Dakota, has nurtured some of the most acclaimed DJs of our time, including Jamie J, David Harness, and Matthew Baker, as well as guest DJs including Frankie Knuckles, Thunderpuss 2000, Manny Lehman, Lydia Primm, and Little Louie Vega. The tradition will continue this Saturday, May 11, from 9:30 p.m. to 7 a.m. when you can party to the sounds of the DJ Phil B, famed for his turntable prowess at Mass, Sundance, Fire Island, and the White Party. He'll be back in the Universe booth for an emotional farewell performance on the club's infamous Richard Long Sound System, "where the momentum all began."

Pleasuredome, the Sunday-night men's dance party started by promoter Bill Camilo in 1992, has carried on the tradition with a slew of top-notch DJs, including Jeff Johnson and Neil Lewis, both of whom will play this Sunday, May 12, with Johnson taking the opening shift from 9 p.m. to midnight, followed by Lewis spinning the house until 3:30 a.m. The cover, as usual, is $8. For more information, visit the web at www.clubtownsend.com, or call (415) 974-1156. ▼



"Carrie," 3' x 4', red and white objects on wallpaper, part of an exhibition by Jason Mecier opening at Glama-Rama, the salon and gallery for rock stars. See Sunday.

Fri 10

Jon Sims Center for the Arts

The JSCA's Alchemy Emerging Playwrights Series presents "Horse Latitudes," a new play by Nicola Harwood, directed by Tracy Ward, exploring the intersections of Native American and white culture through relationships between two women and their daughters. The setting is a reservation in the early 1970s, when racial violence and alcoholism are at a peak. $8-415 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 8pm. Fri.-Sun. May 10-19. 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th St. & S. Van Ness). Info: 554-0402.

Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida

"Just a tease," a kick-off event for a new visual art and performance space for LGBTQQ youth in SFR, sponsored by The Love and Justice Project, a joint effort by Community United Against Violence (CUAV) and the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center (LYRIC). At this event, organizers will announce the name of the new monthly venue that will begin in July, featuring an open mic and visual art gallery. $1-$1,000 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 7:30-10pm. Doors open & open mic sign up at 7:30pm; show starts at 8pm, followed by music and dancing. 2973 16th St. (at Mission). Info: Mario, 777-5500, ext. 311.

The LAB

Premier: Mary Armentrout Dance-Theater and The LAB present "Blue Sofa." In an ever-changing environment of suburban furniture, supermarket items and frozen fragments of other people, Choreographer-in-Residence Armentrout employs her trademark minimalist fusion of dance and theater to deconstruct the inner life of contemporary American materialist culture. Five characters try to figure out why their perfect, prefab IKEA furnished, Oreo and Wonderbread filled lives don't seem to be giving them what they want. As they flail and crash and connect and disconnet with each other, deeper aspects of what it is to be human come into focus. $10-$15 sliding. 8pm. May 10, 11, 17 & 18. The LAB, 2948 16th St. (at Capp). Tix/info: 864-8855; www.thelab.org

Dance Mission Theater

Scott Wells & Dancers present "Rocky -vs- Baryshnikov," a lighthearted, athletic look at the art of boxing, as seen through the art of dance. $16. 8:30pm Fri.-Sun., May 10-12, & Thu.-Sun., May 16-19. DMT, 3316 24th St. (at Mission St.). Tix: 931-8648.

Next Stage

Bare Bones Theatre and First Seen present Katherine Murphy's dark comedy "Greater America, an absurd portrait of family dysfunction and the pernicious influence of the entertainment industry. $15 (pay what you can Sundays, May 12 & 26). 8pm Fri-Sat; 7pm Sun. Thru June 9 (no show May 11). 1620 Gough (at Bush). Tix: 821-2418.

Randall Museum

The Young People's Teen Musical Theatre Company present "Dames at Sea." $5-$7. 8pm Fri & Sat; 2pm Sun. Thru May 19. Randall Museum Theater, 199 Museum Way. Info: 554-9523.



Jennifer Dean plays in *Greater America* at Next Stage. See Friday.



Robert Martinez and Brian Yates Sharber are part of a family of misfits in Doug Holsclaw's *Knuckles and Crunch* at Theatre Rhinoceros. See Saturday.

Sat 11

Theatre Rhinoceros

Opening night: "Knuckles and Crunch," a new play by Doug Holsclaw, directed by Adele Prandini. It tells the story of the special friendship between two drifters who find work in a gay bar in Columbus, Ohio in 1978. They are drawn into a family of gay misfits including a libidinous stripper, an African American DJ, and a seedy bar owner. Featuring musical numbers by Mr. Ruby Rims and Ms. Loretta Fox, characters based on real-life drag performers of the 1970s. Starring John Michael Beck, Jon Gale, Brian Yates Sharber, Corey McDaniel, Ron Lanza and Robert Martinez. $22 Sat.; $20 Fri.; $18 Thu. & Sun.; $16 Wed. 8pm Wed.-Sat.; 7pm Sun. (plus matinees May 19, 26 & June 3). Thru June 8. Tix: 861-5079.

Herbst Theatre

Kung Pao Kosher Comedy™ presents "The Fourth Annual Funny Girlz: A Smorgasbord of Women's Humor," featuring Luenell (Oakland's bad girl of comedy), Vijai Nathan (Indian American comic from NY), Karen Ripley (the Bay Area's favorite deadpan lesbian comic), María Elena Gaitán ("Chola con Cello"), Juanita MORE (San Francisco's most divine lip-synching drag sensation), and your hostess, Lisa Geduldig. Partial proceeds benefit WritersCorps SF, a project of the SF Arts Commission. $20 & $25. 8pm. 401 Van Ness Ave. Tix: 392-4400; tickets.com. Info: 522-3737; www.koshercomedy.com

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

Lavender Seniors, a group for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders over the age of 55, hold their monthly potluck. Also seeking volunteers of all ages to work with socially isolated seniors. 12 noon. San Leandro Community Church, 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro. Info/rides from BART: (510) 667-9655.

Sun 12

Glama-Rama

Opening reception: "New Portraits by Jason Mecier," who collects absolutely anything and everything as art supplies. His latest creations are giant mosaic portraits assembled from various household objects, products and collections mounted on wallpaper. These one-of-a-kind mosaics are like nothing you've seen before. See tabloid tragedy Jon Benet Ramsey made out of 100 baby shoes, and Charo made out of Love Boat merchandise. Free. 6-9pm. 417 South Van Ness Ave. (at 15th St.). Info: 861-GLAM.

Grace Cathedral

Chanticleer, the internationally acclaimed 12-man a cappella choral ensemble, perform "The Divine Tapestry: A Mass for All Time," showcasing the ensemble's virtuosity in sacred music spanning 1,000 years, assembled by Music Director Joseph Jennings, from the earliest Gregorian chants to contemporary works by composers Augusta Read Thomas and John Tavener. $34 & $31 reserved; $25 gen'l adm. 7pm. Also Tue., May 14 at 8pm. Tix/info: 392-4400; 800-407-1400; www.chanticleer.org; www.tickets.com

Mon 13

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

In concert: The SF Contemporary Music Players present "Música Para Charlar," a night of music by Mexican composers Silvestre Revueltas, Mario Lavista, Juan Trigos Ruanova, Javier Torres Maldonado, Ricardo Zohn-Muldoon, and Carlos Sanchez-Gutierrez. Conducted by Jean-Louis LeRoux. A highlight is Revueltas's thrilling 1935 homage to Spanish poet-playwright Federico Garcia Lorca. $18 ($14 seniors; $7 students). Pre-concert talk at 7:15pm; concert at 8pm. YBCA Theater, 700 Howard St. Tix: 978-ARTS

Tue 14

SF Camerawork

Opening reception: "Everyman: A Search for the Male Form," an exhibition that explores readings of masculinity that push the boundaries of traditional representations of gender. Presenting the work of ten contemporary male photographers: Juhn Dugdale, Robert Flynt, Bill Jacobson, Bohnchang Koo, Oscar Muñoz, John O'Reilly, Dan Ragland, Hugh Shurley, Gerald Slota, and An Anonymous Artist of the Late 20th Century. Free. 6:30-8:30pm. Exhibit runs thru June 15. 1246 Folsom St. Info: 863-1001; www.sfcamerawork.org

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

San Francisco Performances presents "Dance/Screen," a program of international short dance films, curated by Charlotte Shoemaker. $6 ($3 SFP subscribers). YBCA Screening Room, 701 Mission St. Tix: 978-ARTS.

Venue 9

Footloose's Women's Work series presents Margit Galanter's "Insert," an improvisational event with Kadet Kuhne (sound) and Beth Ahlstrand (set); Kim T. Davis Dance; Serene Zloof's "Manifest," a solo metaphysical "hyper-kinetic" comedy about the dangers of Free Will in a Media-Controlled Universe; and "Blue Bird," a duet by Minoo Hamzavi and John Michael Doyle. $8-$10 sliding. 8pm. 252 9th St. (btwn Folsom & Howard). Tix/info: 289-2000; www.venue9.com

Intersection for the Arts

"The Hybrid Project: What Do You Want to Say?" Join a room full of people — DJs, dancers, actors, writers, musicians — in this continuing series aimed at creating new performance languages. Hosted by Sean San José, Joe Lopez and Shawn Taylor, with Robert Karimi, students from SF School of the Arts, Jami Glowaci, and Josh Korr. $5-$15 sliding. 8pm. 446 Valencia St. (btwn 15th & 16th). Info: 626-2787.

The Stud

Trannyshack presents "One Flew Over the Tranny's Nest," hosted by mental case Suppositori Spelling. $6. 10pm-3am (show at midnight). 9th & Harrison. Next week: Ggreg Taylor returns from London.



David Allen

Charles Dean stars in *The Entertainer* at Aurora Theatre Company. See Thursday.

Wed 15

New Conservatory Theatre Center

Preview: "The Ritz," a play by Terrence McNally, directed by Ed Decker. When a straight guy on the lam from the Mafia hides out in a gay bathhouse, comic mistaken identities, bizarre chases and unusual confrontations result. $18 previews & Wednesdays; $28 Fridays & Saturdays. $35 Opening Night Gala (May 25). Thu., May 16 is Pay As You Wish Community Night. 8pm. Tix: 861-8972.

Intersection for the Arts

Opening reception: "R X D = [eros] X [ethnicity]," an installation by shellac, a multicultural collective of queer artists, intellectuals and organizers. This interactive multi-genre art installation is presented in conjunction with several nights of performance, video, film and panel discussions focusing on how race and desire permeate our relationships, work and lives. Artists include James Chan, Jaime Cortez, Ali Dadgar, e-mael, Gennifer Hirano, Jason Luz, Hiro Miyahara, Allyn Nobles, Wura Ogunji and Ana Lara, Diego Pacheco, and Rebeka Rodriguez. 6-9pm. 446 Valencia St. Info: 626-2787; www.theintersection.org

SFMOMA

The Modern Art Council of the SF Museum of Modern Art presents the "2002 Art Auction," the Museum's most important fundraising event, featuring something for every taste and budget. (Auction items may be previewed at SFMOMA May 13-14, 11am-6pm, free and open to the public; silent Auction bids accepted during previews). $175 Patron; $300 Benefactor. 6pm cocktails & silent auction; 7pm live auction and hors d'oeuvres by McCall Associates. Tix/info: 357-4127.

Curran Theatre

Return engagement: *Les Misérables*, the smash-hit musical by Alain Boublil and Claude-Michael Schönberg, based on Victor Hugo's classic novel, an epic saga that sweeps through three turbulent decades of 19th century France. Presented by Cameron Mackintosh. $30-$85. 8pm Wed.-Sat.; 7:30pm Sun; matinees 2pm Sat. & Sun. Thru June 9. Tix: Orpheum theatre Box Office (1192 Market St.); Curran Theatre Box Office (445 Geary St.); and Ticketmaster (512-7770; ticketmaster.com). Info: www.bestofbroadway-sf.com; www.lesmis.com

El Rio

Benefit for Sir Video and The Strombolli Tour, with performances and readings by Daphne Gottlieb, Valeria,This Direct Expression of Violence, Jane Delynn, Ralowe, and Kevin Killian. Hosted by Shar Rednour and Michelle T. $5. 7pm door; 8pm show. 3158 Mission St (at Cesar Chavez). Info: 282-3325; www.elriosf.com



Alan Purcell

Juanita MORE vamps in *Funny Girlz*. See Saturday.

Thu 16

HMI @ The Center

Harvey Milk Institute Art & Lecture Series presents Susan Stryker speaking on "The Compton's Cafeteria Riot: San Francisco's Forgotten Stonewall." Learn how in August 1966, drag queens, hustlers and "hair fairies" in the Tenderloin of SF fought back against police oppression to launch the militant phase of the sexual liberation movement here on the West Coast. $10-$25 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 7:30pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Tix/info: 865-5633; www.harveymilk.org

Eagle Tavern

"Thursday Night Live," the weekly kick-ass live-rock series, opens with an acoustic set by ing (Sean Mylett, Mark Smotroff) followed by Winfred E. Eye (Aaron Calvert, Craig Adams, Mikel Garmendia, Chandan Narayan, Dax Pierson), and the grand finale with Dave Gleason's Wasted Days (Dave Gleason, John Kent, Michael Thereau, Dave Stark). 9:30pm. 398 12th St. (at Harrison). Info: www.sfeagle.com

EXIT Theatre

"DIVAfest: A Theatre Festival with a 'Female Persuasion'," celebrating womanhood from minx to matriarch, virgin to vamp. Featuring four stages of plays, solo works, cabaret and comedy shows over two weeks. Presenting Sean Owen's "Girlesque," Kerry Reid's "The Last of the Red-Hot Dadas," Dacia Maraini's "Dialogue Between A Prostitute and Her Client," Thessaly Lerner's "Champion!" Libby O'Connell's "Hellacious: Lily Marchand Rises Again," Buffy Charlet's "Body Talk: Boobs, Butts & Thigs," Amy X Neuburg's "Songs About Life & Death & Love & Insects," "Madam Noir's Fandango," a vaudevillian cabaret by Carnival of Chaos, and a special staged reading (on May 20) of Clare Boothe Luce's "The Women." Plus an exhibit of art, "Nocturne," by Teresa Moore. $55 all show pass. 156 Eddy St. & 277 Taylor St. Tix/info: 673-3847; www.DIVAfest.org

Aurora Theatre, Berkeley

Opening night: John Osborne's "The Entertainer" follows three generations of a family of entertainers as they wrestle with personal ambition and loyalty to both family and tradition. Starring Charles Dean in the role originated by Sir Laurence Olivier. Directed by Tom Ross. $26-$35. 8pm Wed.-Sat; 2pm & 7pm Sun (no 7pm show May 12). Thru June 16. Tix: (510) 843-4822; www.auroratheatre.org

Cafe Du Nord

Join Heklina, Pippi Lovestocking, Kennedy and Killing My Lobster for a "Work Is a Drag Party," celebrating Bike to Work Month, sponsored by the SF Bicycle Coalition. $8 ($5 SFBC members). 6-9pm. 2170 Market St. Info: www.sfbike.org

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Send your calendar event listings to:

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Next big gig: IML 2002

Chicago's huge leather fest, May 23-27

by Mister Marcus

For the 24th year, the entire Leather Kingdom is poised to celebrate the world's biggest leather competition — International Mr. Leather 2002 — which takes place in Chicago on the weekend of May 23-27. The host hotel this year is the Hyatt Hotel, situated only a few feet from the Chicago River, and a stone's throw across the bridge to that city's Miracle Mile, the fabulous Michigan Avenue. They've had to add more rooms for the onslaught of leather people expected from all over Europe, Canada and virtually every state in the U.S., with attendees registering at a record level.

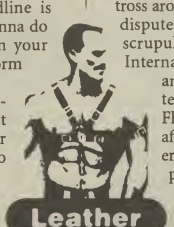
Since last Fall, leather contests have been staged at the bar, city, state and regional levels in anticipation of the big event, and so far it appears more than 65 contestants from all over the U.S., Canada, Germany, Amsterdam and Italy will compete. No word has come yet on whether Australia will have any contenders. The contestant registration deadline is May 15, so if you're gonna do it, you should send in your five-page registration form pronto.

On the same weekend as IML, the Great Lakes Bears host their annual bear weekend, so you can expect full houses at bars, restaurants and hotels. Some good air fares to Chicago can be had, either to O'Hare or Midway, but act fast!

San Francisco and the Bay Area will be well represented at IML this year. Besides contestants from Alameda, Santa Clara and Sonoma Counties, San Francisco will offer up Mr. Daddy's Leather Scott Brogan, Mr. Hayes Valley Leather Michael Schaefer and Mr. Daddy's Leather Mr. Edge Leather and of course, Mr. San Francisco Leather Peter Jackson. The official good luck and send-off party is on Saturday, May 18 at the Powerhouse at 2100.

Int'l. Leather Sir and Leather Boy

Meanwhile, amid weak rumblings and veiled threats of lawsuits, the owners of the Drummer titles in Amsterdam have an albatross around their necks. When disputes erupted over unscrupulous acts at last year's International Mr. Drummer and Drummer Boy contests in St. Petersburg, Florida only 24 hours after the contest, producer Mike Zuhl divested his production company from any connection with the Drummer name. He managed to rally the support of all the regional producers to stage International Sir and International Boy competitions at the same venue, the Sun Coast Resort in St. Petersburg, Florida.



Let's face it: Leather contests in Europe are not as big or as popular as they are here and in Canada. The standouts are in Germany and in Amsterdam where hedonistic leather weekends are staged for their major title events. Mr. Leather Europe is from Italy. There are also Mr. Leather Germany, Mr. Leather Holland and Mr. Bavaria Leather. Hervé Bernard from Paris, France and Clive Platman from Sydney, Australia are the only foreigners to win the Drummer title thus far. And the Drummer officials in Amsterdam have fallen short of promoting the title in Europe.

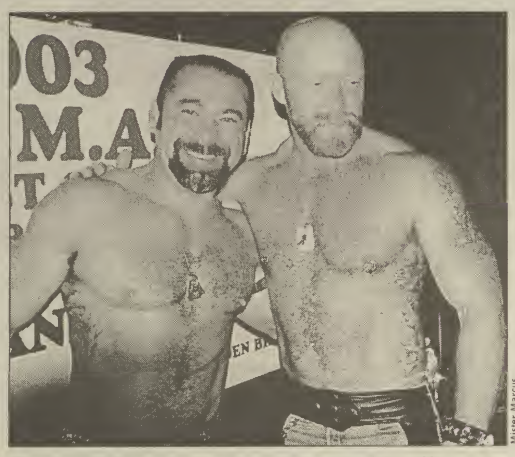
Some of the regions have changed formats slightly. The Gulf Coast region event has been renamed the South Central Leather Sir/Boy contest, and is first out of the gate with a contest taking place the weekend May 17-19 in Dallas at the Dallas Eagle. The schedules for the rest of the regions have not yet been established, but the finals will take place the weekend of October 10-13. It should be a hot time in Florida again this year as the new titles appear to be headed for success.

Locally, the Northern California Leather Sir/Leather Boy 2002 contests will take place at the Russian River at the Eagle on the weekend of August 2-4. Hopefully entries from San Jose, San Francisco, Alameda County and Marin/Sonoma will participate.

Bare chest calendar finale

It's been a long journey since the first Bare Chest Calendar contest on January 10 to pick Mr. January 2003 (Joe Potter) through last Thursday, May 2, when Mr. December 2003 (Dax Berg) was chosen by judges Gavin Middleton, Chris Ross, Ron Nieport and

next page ▶


Mister Marcus

Mike Romero, left, is Mr. November 2003, and Dax Berg is Mr. December 2003 on the 2003 SoMa Bare Chest Calendar. They also happen to be domestic partners. All 12 winners will compete for the cover position on Thursday, May 16 at the Powerhouse.

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, May 9

Deadline for Leather/Levi Weekend (Aug. 9-11) for the $125 fee. The fare will be $150 through July 9th and after that, it's $175. For more info, click on www.LeatherLevi.org.

The Edge Bar celebrates its 11th anniversary tonight from 2000-2300 with Customer Awards, raffles for a trip for two to Puerto Vallarta with lodging, and Mexican hors d'oeuvres . Wear festive beach attire.

Weekend, May 10-12

Northeast Regional Leather Sir/Boy competition at the LGBT Center on Saturday night. Meet & greet on Friday at the L.U.R.E. and a victory brunch on Sunday also at the L.U.R.E.

Cal Eagles MC overnight run to Grass Valley with a variety of prices depending on your taste. For info, call Tony (650) 219-6461 or click on www.caleagles.org.

Saturday, May 11

Fleet Week at the Turf Club in Hayward from 1500-1900 with boat races, food, fishing, knot tying and uniform contests to benefit the title-holders' travel fund. $10 donation with wine and cheese tasting.

Sunday, May 12

Golden Gate Guards MC beer/soda bust at the Eagle with the usual $8 for beverages and food.

Thursday, May 16

2003 Bare Chest Calendar Cover Man contest at the Powerhouse promptly at 2130. All 12 winners will compete with the runner-up on the back cover. Don't miss this one!

Weekend, May 17-19

Golden Gate Guards MC weekend run to Yosemite with varying fees. Email to: Yosemite@ggguards.com.

3rd Annual Dog & Pony Show @ Castlebar. For info: www.castlebar.com/pony.htm.

San Diego Boys of Leather in that city present "BoyFest 2002" at Moving Arts Building with all sorts of fundraising for the Lupus Foundation.

At the Dallas Eagle in Texas, the South Central Leather Sir/Boy contests. Meet and greet Friday, contest on Saturday night.

Saturday, May 18

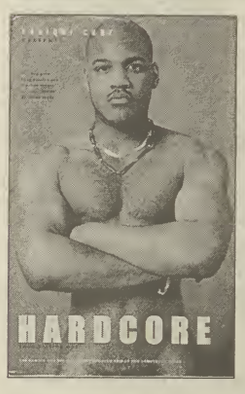
Congratulations and send-off party for Mr. San Francisco Leather Peter Jackson, 2100-2300, at the Powerhouse. Be there!

Back in black

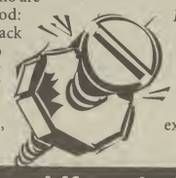
by John F. Karr

Arriving at my house at the same time were two movies related only in the fact that their casts were all-black. One was completely unacceptable; the other was acceptably adequate.

Enrique Cruz is a young, New York-based director who has acquired some renown for "realistically" presenting boyz who are distinctly of da 'hood: harshly urban young black and mixed black/Latino men. His ostensibly street-smart style of presentation (lots of "get your freak on, nigga" in the dialogue) has been dubbed hip-hop porn. Cruz' is a small fiefdom in New York, like the one Terrence Allen has here — a covey a boys, a production shop making films, and an approach catering to tastes quite apart from the idealized, pretty-boy mainstream school of porn. My first Cruz film is *Hardcore*, which is disconcertingly subtitled *Thug Passion One*. The box is pretty slick, the performer on the cover enticing. Too bad it's not the box going into my VCR.



Hardcore purports to uncover what goes on behind the closed doors of the hip-hop music industry. Yet while that world's noted homophobia might have presented some striking conflicts, its presentation here is not only complete fantasy (as the movie itself is a fantasy of filmmaking), but its presentation is incomprehensible, and reduced to the barest clichés. First up, it's "If you sign with my label, you can have all the bitches and hos you want;" following success, it's "I have to sign with another company 'cuz I gots lots of music in my head to express;" then, finally, "But I love you, baby, stay with me."



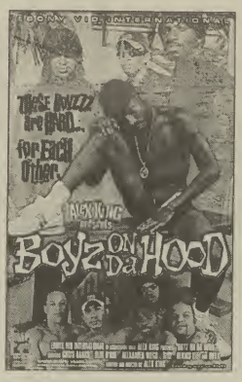
Karrnal Knowledge

Well, the guys in *Hardcore* don't want no hos, even though they insultingly keep saying they do. Nor do they seem very much to want the expected alternative, each other, judging from the mechanical, distracted sex they engage in. There's a solid hour of such cold collisions, thrown up in nearly unwatchable snippets as the hip-hop style demands that both the videographer and the editor provide as much camera jive as possible. I presumed the cameraman had palsy, and in the credits find out there were five cameramen, who seem to be whichever performers weren't onscreen at the moment. So much for expertise. Only in the last three-quarter-hour do the filmmaker's pace and the performers' connection allow actual couplings, but like the preceding hour, these are so badly lit that nothing much is visible. And if you expected at least some groovy music, forget it. The random samplings and disjunct regurgitations heard here are headache, not hip-hop. *www.enriquecruz.com; 1 (800) 861-7501*

Pick-up sticks

Much better (bearing in mind the scale we've been working on) is *Boyz on da Hood*, made by local porneur Alex King. Note the preposition and lack of apostrophe in the title. This bit of verbal wit doesn't carry through to the movie, but is truthful. In this easy outing, a pick-up truck loaded with half-a-dozen guys pulls into someone's garage and parks, becoming the site of the brothas' party, with prominent fuckings taking place right on da hood.

Although the young men in



Boyz on da Hood aren't classic beauties, these guyz are attractive. Quite simply, they're real. Street-corner guys. Some are homely in that earthy way that reads as butch. And while the "thug" and other stereotyping is left behind, the obviously important element of their ethnicity is presented without pandering to consumer tastes.

The production is somewhat low overhead. You can hear the still photographer's camera clicking and whirring throughout, and though the lighting is amply illuminating, it's not exactly flattering. These boys aren't cosmetically perfect (that's part of their appeal, actually), and could use some flattering. Yet I didn't mind. They make out and enjoy themselves, and that heightens their appeal. They're presented in a quality of picture that's nearly startling, the color so true, clear and concise that I thought this might be digital video. There are two quality bottoms, and at least one star top, a solidly muscled guy with a classically beautiful cock. There's a perfectly caught MOP (remember? that's Moment of Penetration), followed by a spread-leg panorama of fucking that repeats that delectable MOP most effectively. This top features in several couplings and provides the film's finale, urging a climax that agonizingly builds to a thrashing peak of an orgasm from a superbly endowed bottom.

Still, these incidents shouldn't oversell *Boyz on da Hood*. The clarity of its photography may be the only distinguished thing about it. But there's nothing undistinguished about it, either. It's unpretentious porn, pulled off with some expertise. *www.ebonyvid.com; 1 (800) 733-3393* ▼

Out There

◀ *page* 26

which are sort of like **Survival Research Labs** meets an audition for **Chi-Chi LaRue**. If monster dildoes attached to the horsepower of some mighty fine engines is your thing, glut yourself here. **The Trespasser** looks like an industrial egg-beater gone sex-aholic; **The Drilldo** could have made a fortune for Black & Pecker! ▼



Doesn't look like any shop class Out There ever attended!

Mister Marcus

◀ *previous page*

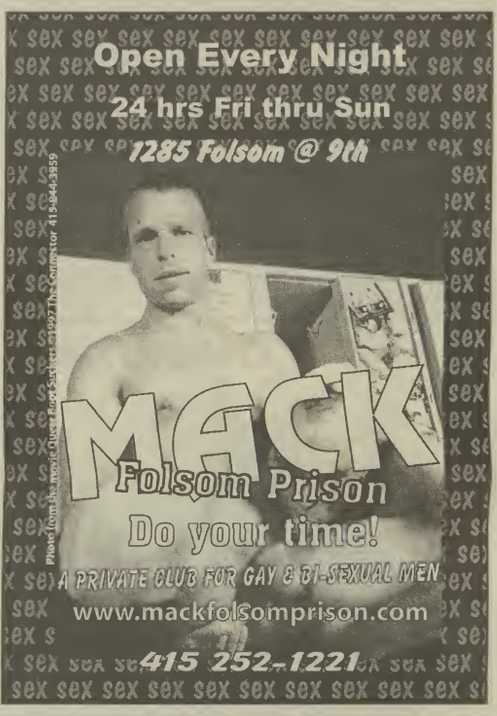
photographer James Scott Geras. The runner-up was Channing Luke-Silver. It was a spirited and raucous ending to a five-month cruise among some of the best male pulchritude to come along. The 2003 calendar will surely be a big seller when James Scott Geras finishes with the photo shoots. My thanks to the Powerhouse Bar manager Scott Peterson, all the people who judged and every one of the volunteers on the Bare Chest Calendar committee.

The twelve winners will compete to see who will appear on the cover of the 2003 edition, and the runner-up will be on the back cover. This takes place next Thursday, May 16 at 2100 hours at the Powerhouse. Be sure to attend the climax of a very satisfying chest season. If all goes right, the calendar should be on sale by the Dore Alley Fair. Special thanks to Miller Brewing and Golden Brands Distributors for underwriting this calendar, which will ultimately benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund and Positive Resources Center. Special thanks also to Robert Lee, a straight man who is the liaison between Miller and Golden Brands Distributors and the calendar committee. Next time you step up to the bar be sure to buy a Miller brand brew - we owe them!

Until next week, stay warm, stay cool, live, love, laugh and volunteer! Just do it in leather! ▼


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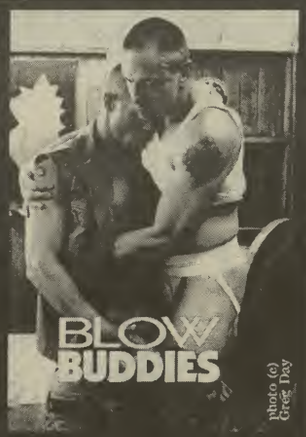
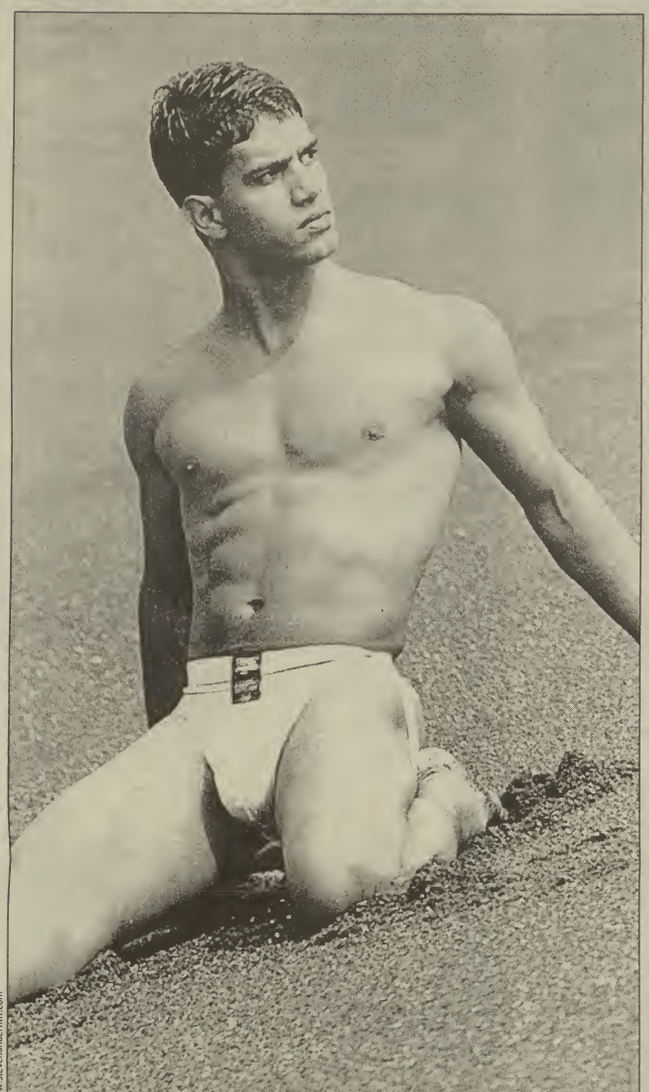
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PARTING GLANCES

"Bump!" Sunday Morning 4:30am
Guy from East Bay. From: Baton Rouge, LA. Give me a call. Enjoyed dancing with you. Sorry, had to go. Let's do it again. If interested give Mike a shout at: ☎ 71714

"O Rich, Where Art Thou?"
We met in 1999. You: Banker, lived near Frederick Street. Glasses, Gold's Gym, short hair cut, born in GA. love to cook beef, asked if I had a girl friend? Love to meet again. Ken near USF. Please call. ☎ 71715

Clint, On Market Street
You're half-Indian, ex-Mormon, your brother's also in SF. This is Walter, I lost your phone #. You didn't tell me you were hospitalized New Year's Day. Please call back. ☎ 71716

Waterfight At the PowerHouse 4/21
Your shirt without buttons, your enchanting circle of friends. You beckoned, I followed, but to no avail. I now desire and feel entitled to a true exchange of power. John ☎ 71732

Kevin-Boxes Of Macy's Luggage
Saturday April 20. That lady was in the way on Bart. I should have helped you carry your load to your blue jeep and taken you up on that ride. ☎ 71733

Fall On Your Knees
That is what you were reading on f/t 815 on 4/18. Stuck in Phoenix we shared row 8. Wish I'd asked you out for a drink- 2nd chance? ☎ 71750

Pumping Gas
4/25- Arco Station @ 14th & Mission. About 4pm. You have a great smile- would love to say more than just "hi" & "don't work too hard". Call- ☎ 71751

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Professional Afro-American Guy
Available for long-term relationship, has many qualities. Prefer mature guy between 60's to, 80 years old. Let's talk. ☎ 71717

Adam Seeking Another Adam
I am looking for my Adam race, age, doesn't matter. No married men. I'm not an Eve or Steve for kinky sex games, relationship. ☎ 71718

Come Out Of The Woods
Silver/blonde fox, 5'8", 150lbs, HIV+, seeks fox or bear over 50, HIV+. Very sociable, funny and romantic. Enjoys looking at headboards. N. Bay resident. ☎ 71719

Latin Seeking Latin
I'm 36yrs. 5'8", 154 husky looks. Easygoing nice muscular body, looking 4 partner under 36yrs 5'6" or 5'8" smooth or little hair versatile slim. No drugs or heavy drinkers no fats no fems. Hope for a wonderful life together. ☎ 71720

GWM Looking For LTR
6'5", 160, 58 bld/blu top looking for GWM 40+ bottom romance/fun-Herb aroma+ call. ☎ 71734

"Ball Worshipper!"
Seeks a/w w/nice balls in loose low hanging sack for long slow sessions of kissing licking sucking fondling while I J/O both of us prefer uncut cock. ☎ 71735

Santa Rosa Native
SWM, 41, 5'10", 180#, redhair, ex-navy, owns mobilhome. Enjoys drumming, talk radio, the outdoors, & tennis. Seeks female. ☎ 71736

Masc Lonely Latin Wants Latin
36yo. 5'8", 152, good looking, Latin, under 36yo, slim smooth, nice personality, husky look, versatile, under 7" cock. N/S/N/D, sleeping over, single only. Long term relationship call now!! ☎ 71737

40 Asian Fil Need Soulmate
40's still good looking fil. Med built, height /weight proportional, fun, romantic, sexy seeking a GWM in his 40 for fun, romance, adventure and sex. ☎ 71738

Attractive GAM To Date
GAM goodlooking, cleancut boy next door. 30's, 5'8", slim with nice personality seeks similar goodlooking, masculine, cleancut GWM 40 or younger for friendship/datlng. ☎ 71739

Smart, Skinny, Submissive?
Berkeley top, 32, 6'3", 195lbs, bl/bl, 7"cut, handsome, educated, intelligent, passionate, seeks boyish White or Asian for erotic education. Beginners welcome. Gentle to rough. Limits respected- then expanded. ☎ 71740

In Our Dreams We've Seen Each Other
White hair, dark eyes, full lips, bodies not neglected: passionate, playful, curious, open, full of desire. Let's be two GM making our desire real- now. Call... ☎ 71752

"Football-Built"
Blk, 50, 5'10", 220, ch. 50", aggressive, strong, loving, kissable, suckable, safe, long hiar, strong legs, swollen nipples, strong buns, 10"+7 1/2" round, serious. No fats or fems. ☎ 71753

WM Seeking Relationship W/One
Man, masculine top; me 25, 147lbs, 5'11", smooth, tight hairy, stache/goatee, lt. beard, and construction A plus+. ☎ 71754

Seek: SWM Bring-U-Out/Pumps-Up
GWM 6' blu/bld (handsome "bite") f/m, smooth, adoring, sweet, art, heart seeks: emerging masc, musc N/S fit, chest hair, ageless HIV-straight dude, tender fun, fr/sp A+. Serious/ discreet help. ☎ 71755

Male Menopause
Successful, accomplished, polished, healthy and fit, fortysomething prof GWM seeks cute, emotionally available thirtysomething GM to share anacronistic valuses like honesty, integrity, tenderness, Midnight Mass. Ability to speak in complete sentences a plus. ☎ 71756

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Blk Top Sks Total Bttm Boy
Total masculine Blk top, 6'1", 225 37 HIV-. Sks total submissive bttm, prefer fem types. Be clean shaven and smooth, HIV-. Let's play. ☎ 71721

BM Seeking New Friends
35y/o BM, 5'9" 185 HIV-neg is seeking GM between 24-40y/o in SF or East Bay for friendship, social activities or casual dating. Let's talk. ☎ 71722

Be My Fuck'n Suck'n Dine Out Buddy!
We're the best in and out of bed! I'm hot, hung,thick, hairyish, cut, 200#, 6'63y/o, negative, versatile, NS/ND. Luv music, arts, shows. Play now. Weekends away this summer. ☎ 71723

One Good Sub Boy
Well built, very submissive, eager 2 please, very oral sks, very demanding aggressive top. Me, kneeling waiting to please you, very verbal, in charge, ready to abuse me. ☎ 71724

Gay Nude Photo Models Wanted
Mature GWM photographer seeks in-shape gay White, Asian or Hispanic men, 35 to 60, for artistic, nude, erotic photos. Be sensual and passionate! ☎ 71725

Santa Rosa Action
W/M, 44, 6' 245# offers all over French action for clean W/M's. Convenient location for a nooner, anytimer- no recip expected. ☎ 71727

"Young Asian Butt To Plow!"
Hairless Asian tite hole to fuck I.B. Under 25 and ready to take it. ☎ 71743

Hung GWM, 8"Cut 40 Wants
Hot HIV-, dark skinned men with big, thick, cut and uncut dick for 69, & fucks, either way, your place or mine. ☎ 71728

White Guys Wanted
Slutty horny GAM hot 4 sex ISO GWM. Let me lick and taste you all over. I'm an excellent tight squeezing receiver. Let's get together and have fun. ☎ 71729

Masculine Bottom Needs Horse
Gdlking, masculine dude, 5'10", aub/grn, age 35 discreet, needs horse hung for ongoing action. Into total service, no-nonsense hook ups. Hiv+ yeah! ☎ 71741

Hairy Top Stud
Me: 39, 170#, 5'9", buzzcut, stache, muscular hairy chest, 8" cut, poz, aggressive, passionate total top; You: GWM, attractive, under 45, slutty nasty bottomboy, eager to please horny daddy. ☎ 71726

Your Buddies Think You're Str8
You'd rather watch Ufc than Qaf; rather fist•fight than dance; shave your head, not your pecs; fuck and get fucked hard and rough. Tough, rugged, hairy, skinhead leatherman wants you. ☎ 71742

Italian Guys I Am Honestly
Looking for Italian guys who are attractive or hung for a relationship to party or just to have fun. ☎ 71745

Hung Hispanic Guys Needed
I'm looking for Hispanic guys who are hung 8 or 9 or 10 inches or more, to party, watch videos, suck j.o., etc. ☎ 71744

Gentle Mature Men
WLM 46, 6', 165lbs. ISO gentle senior men who enjoy lots of sensual oral attention & affection. Facial hair, non-buffed A+, but all welcome. Threesomes some kink ok but no gay scene or drugs. ☎ 71746

Black/White X-Rated Fun
GWM 49, 5'11" 180 masculine, fit, well hung and very sexual seeks Black males for videos, j.o. and nude beaches. Palo Alto area. ☎ 71747

Weightlifting Nude
Have bench, barbell, dumbells. Strip down, workout, or watch me workout. Am 49, 5'9", 190. ☎ 71757

Submissive Asn Bottom 4 Tops
Feel the squeezing of my tight hole now on your hard cock. Let me rim & suck you for foreplay. You: 18-48, GWM A+. Let's meet. ☎ 71758

Black On Top, Brown On Bottom
Mature, endowed Black top man seeks mature Latino gentlemen who enjoys a raw back door pounding. Dark skin, dark hair and moustache big turn-ons. Husky bottoms welcome also. ☎ 71759

Hot, Husky & Horny
Goodlkg GWM, 34, 5'9", 170, very muscular legs & butt, nice cock w/handsome, husky build seeks daytime fun w/20-50 y/o gay/bi male. ☎ 71760

Palo Alto GAM 38 5'11" 190 Like
To give oral to guys under 50 w/no recip-just stand or lay back. Have car will travel. Med to large cock appreciated. ☎ 71761

Sub SM BD TT FF WS Rim VA CBT*
Merciless, gagging, choking, skull fucking. Boot, foot worship. Flogging, whipping, strapping, paddling. Me 35, smooth, HIV+. You: dom, clean, sane, sadistic. Tat's, piercing +++. ☎ 71762

FETISHES

•Tantric Buddy•
For regular mutual recharging of our erotic/creative batteries. Me a young 61, 8x6, 5'11", slender, fit. You: slender, creative, into phallic worship. ☎ 71730

Man W/ Toe Ring Loves Barefeet
Lifelong excitement looking at & fantasizing about men's barefeet. Gdlkng East Bay GWM, 5'9", trim, tan, HIV-, loves reciprocal kissing, licking, massaging barefeet & sensual/safe all over body play. ☎ 71748

Masochistic Bottom
Submissive bottom boy, 34, 5'10", bl/bl, 160, needs strict and severe discipline, training and control. Please take me to your woodshed, Sir. Have, canes, paddles, straps, and whips. ☎ 71749

Mature FF Bottom 51
Seeks FF top who likes to dominate hungry dads. Leather optional. Seek regular buddy. ☎ 71763

OTHERS

Want To Develop A Friendship?
Attractive GWM mid 30's seeks friendship with GAM late 30's early 40's. Open to new ideas and activities. Favorites: restaurants, movies, music performances, museum/galleries shows, work-out and parks. ☎ 71731

BAR TALK

PERSONALS ARE FREE!

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY** at **5 PM,** for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The *Bay Area Reporter* reserves the right to edit ads. **One ad per customer per week.**

Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____

Address _____ Evening Telephone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

CATEGORY

- Parting Glances ☐
- Seeking Relationship ☐
- Seeking Adventure ☐
- Lesbian ☐
- Fetishes ☐
- Couples ☐
- Others ☐

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, **30 words maximum**

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

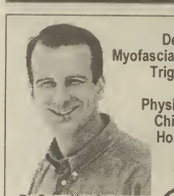
BAY AREA REPORTER PERSONALS

MASSAGE

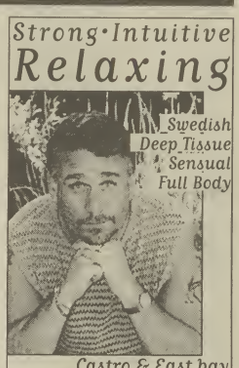
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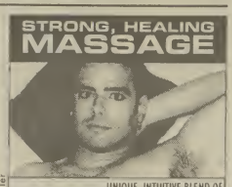
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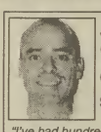
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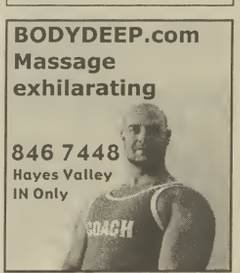
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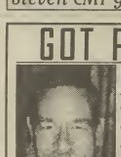
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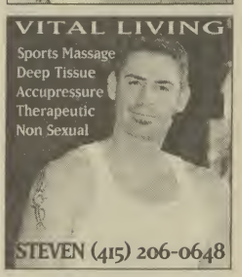
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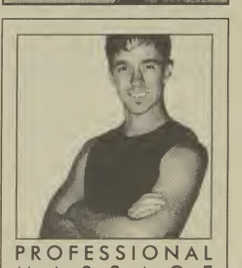
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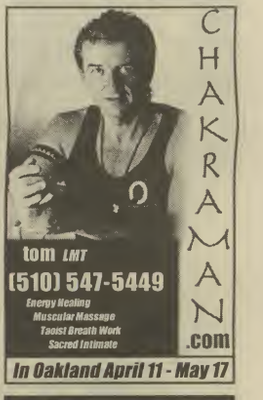
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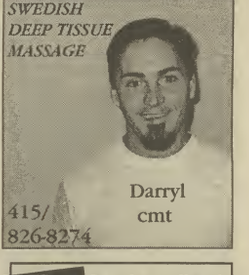
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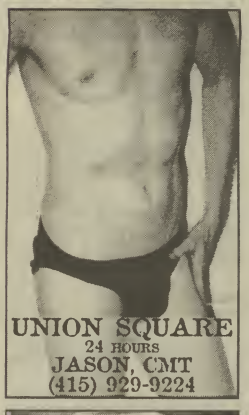


JAPANESE

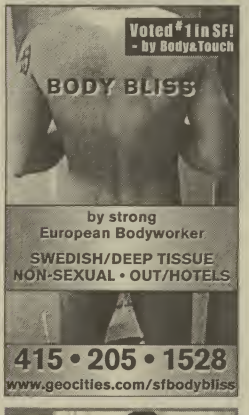


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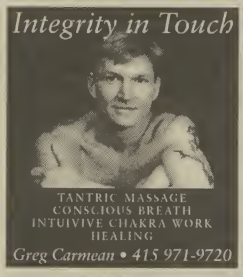


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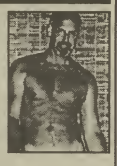


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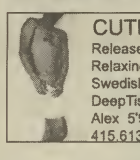
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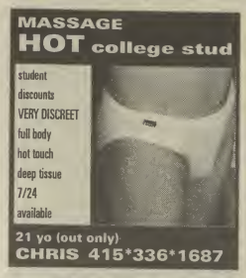
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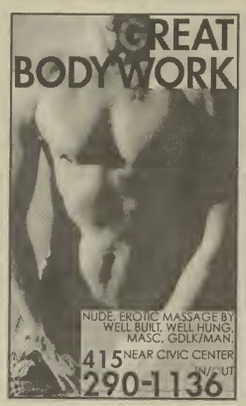
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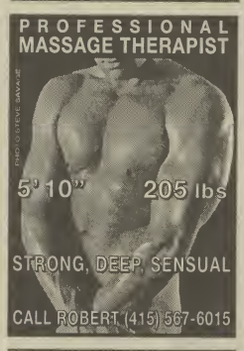
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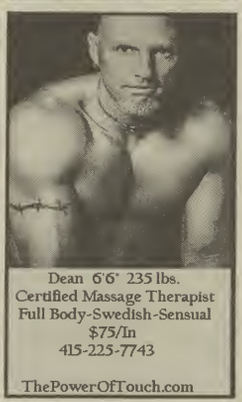
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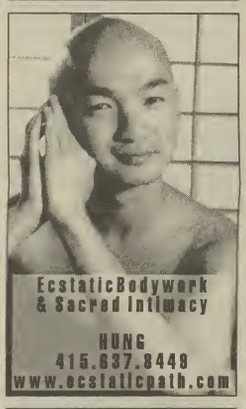
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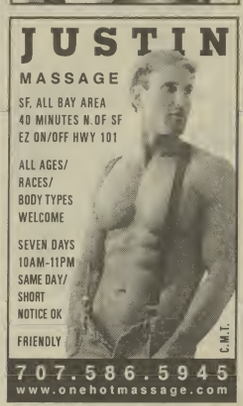
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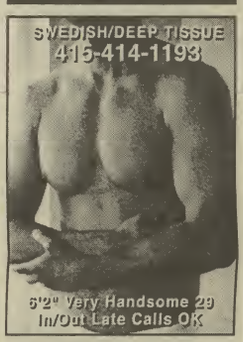
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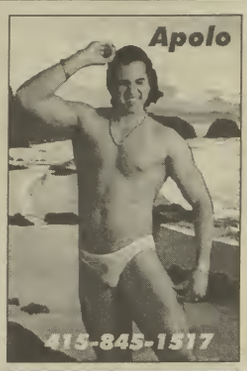
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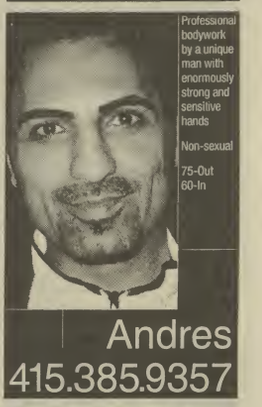
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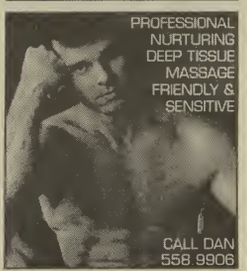
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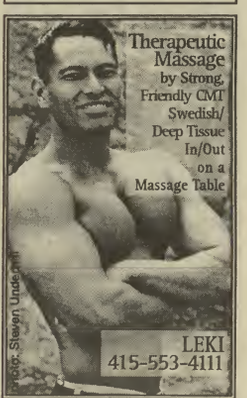






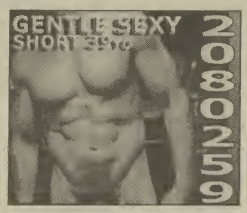




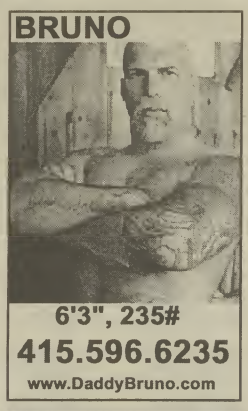


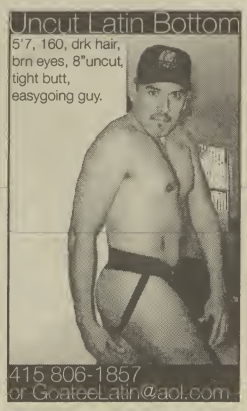
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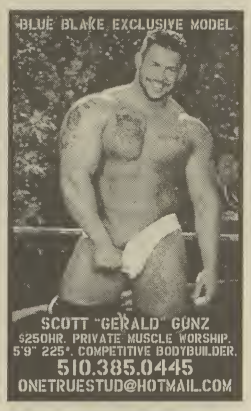


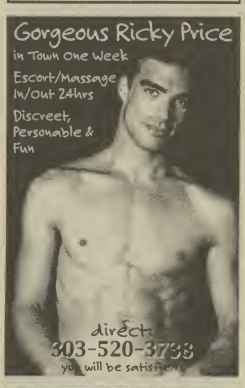








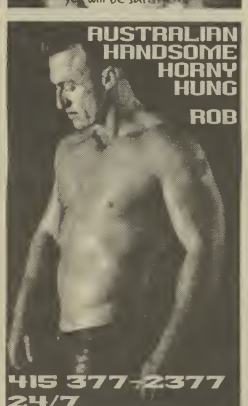


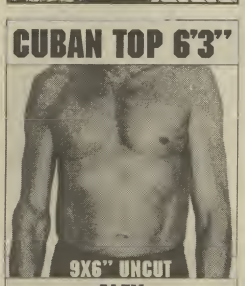








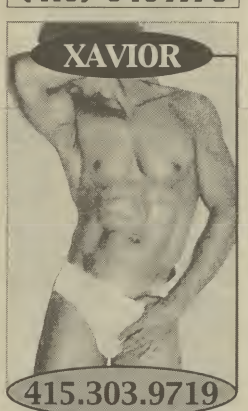




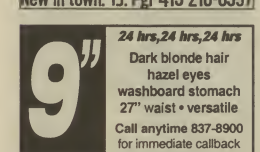














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Frat Boy Hunk
Solid Muscular Pecs, Abs & Legs
Deep throat and young jock ass.
5'9", 155#, 30"w, 8"246-4460 E20

BB bottom in 60 out Bay Area
10am 11pm 415 459 3488 E21

STEEL WORKER
6-1, 180#, muscular, 9inch cut, 29yrs, Top call Steve 415-595-3064 E19

ORAL CRAVINGS
Satisfied by sweet and cute guy
35yrs. 5'10",160# 8 inches, cut.
Call Andy 246-5625 E19

HI! I'M JOE!
I'm a friendly, affectionate, passionate bottom. I can fulfill your fantasies. (415) 242-4230. E22

Hndsm Italian top hung 10x7
CHOKE ON THIS!
Tight lean hairy bod 6'160# 35
gentle strength & arousing edge
in/out entire Bay Area call 24/7
415-256-6743 TomBuStonexxx@aol E23

HOT & SEXY
Handsome well endowed, great body, bedroom eyes, passionate, affectionate, smart & friendly will make you very happy & content 207 6117 E19

HORNY FRIENDLY DUDE
26, 5'6", 135#, lean, solid
great tool. Hot and juicy.
Patrick 415-846-2824 SF In/Out E21

BI GRAD STUDENT
Very handsome, preppy, cleancut
bi 27, young professional type.
White, brn/grn, well toned bod.
Friendly, very well educated,
into getting serviced only.
Located mid-peninsula, in/out.
Steve, cell 650-270-3233.
www.geocities.com/yngExecEscort E23

FIST FIST FIST
Hot Italian will top you with my fist. call Chris 929-1764 E19

HOT BOTTOM
Will take you deep-Release your beast. Sexy white 30 year old 5'7" red head 150# discreet
415 948 1553 E20

Goodlooking in shape horse hung 10 1/2 w/swimmer build. Brent pgr. 415 219 6249 E19

35 y/o x-handsome guy 6' 225# stud w/
THICK MUSCLES SOLID MAN'S BODY
Role play cool visa/mc 415 828 0748 E26

~DOUBLE TROUBLE~
Two hot guys, both beefy masc built. Hard, hung, large balls.
Beefy, round butts. Both young to give you total pleasure. In/out
VERSATILE 312•6535 E19

EXCEPTIONALLY ASIAN
Stunning masculine 22yo 5'8"
145# w/real intelligence. Sexy
& very hot Doug Young 414-2945p E20

LIVE THE MYTH!
RENTDEREK.COM
GBM 9.5x6uc 415.999.8322 $200 E19

MARKO
Erotic service with an exotic twist! Friendly, good-looking guy available for massage and more. Please visit www.MarkoUSA.com for photos and information, or call 415 401-9378 E19

***NINE INCHES-6FT #160**
Tanned/toned/clean & fun! Eve&weeknd
Versatile out calls #888-563-6162 E22

TALENTED BLK TOP
If you're tired of selfish, amateur, tops. Call Conrad, 33yrs/ 5'10"
170# lean, muscular, beautiful.
11 1/2 hung/thick. (510) 684•6196 E19

MONSTER BALLS!
Italian/Irish w/smoldering good looks, lean, lanky, sexy, 6'1"180# brn/brn, goatee, 8x5, low hangers, friendly, passionate. Antonio
415-577-6320- $160 E19

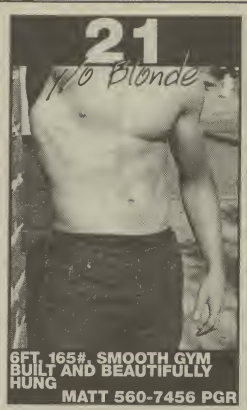
SAN JOSE GUY
WWW.SJBOY.COM
27, 5'11", 165#, blond hair
Pager/voice: 888-325-3005 E19

Smooth muscular build uninhibited
HORSEHUNG LATIN
Robert 415-414-0461 5'8"155# blk/ brn E19

MODEL/ESCORTS

S/M SENSUALITY
–long, & slow– my specialty.
6'2", 185, strong, gymtoned master into all aspects & degrees of leatherplay.
S/M, B&D, FF, WS, raunch.
Lord 431-0959









Asian btm, spanking, bondage, FF, kink, leather, etc. 560-6353 Joey E19

HOT EBONY 23
Good looking sexy ebony guy
friendly & passionate 5'10"
150lbs w/big tool. In/out call
Cameron 415 871-5610 510 569 7067 E19

RUSSIAN BOY
21y.o. 6'1", 179lb, 7", green/dk
versatile, out only 415 254•5750 E19

PUERTO RICAN DADDY 25
5'11", 175lbs, muscular, attractive
10"cut, masc1ne, tats, In/out
4 pics Notyourave@aol.com call
Angelo 510-562-8819 E19

Smart / sexy / horny / smooth
HOT COLLEGE BOY
5'11"/155#/blond/green/vers--see
www.sexyboysite.com or call
415-794-4393---out only E19

21Y/O LATIN ADONIS
Gorgeous Latin American boy 5'8"
145# of ripped muscle very hot
classy intelligent 415 845 9263 E19

HOT SALSA
Slender, hung, smooth, any area.
Travel available 415-789-8094 E19

!BLACK ADONIS!
24yo beautiful top 10"x6"
6' & 165# toned swimmers build
JASON 415 414-2984 E19

CUTE BOY NEXT DOOR
24, 5'11", 168#, lean, smooth, sexy
friendly, well educated, clean
Chris 415-505-9051 $120 out only E19

ERIC HOT LATINO 24/YO
sexy handsome uncut 5'7", 140lbs
versatile call 305-6856 in/out E20

CORNFED IRISH HUNK!
24 y/o•5'9"•175#•9x6cut•smooth
chest•soft touch•very oral•mmm!
Outcalls/travel 415 254-4689 E18

DOMINANT BLACK TOP
5'6", 145 27yo, 10 1/2 uncut. CallJa-
son at 648-7391. In $95 out $150 E19

One excruciating hour one great
hand-job huge SF bear 6'4", 280#
647-6212 "Pete" *** $40/$20 E21

27yo steamy smooth Latin
8"uncut top 5'7" $100 Fran 251 2723 E19

LET'S PARTY "9"
(415) 775-4771 24-hours E19

X-TALL BLK TOP STUD
6'6", 230lb 36yo smooth musc bld
X-HANDSOME HUNG BIG
True 10x7 hungry deep tool
$200 OUT ONLY CALL
ROB 441•2134
24hrs let's play guys E19

HOT BLOND BOTTOM MAN
Hip fit smart present & sexxxy!
6'3", 180# athletic & muscular w/8"
long legs & round smooth butt
mild to wild friendly and fun
$125 In/up 415/706-9740 for you! E19

EXOTIC CREOLE
Affectionate, sexy, 24, 142#, 5'8"
7 1/2 cut, into mutual spanking
Out only, Eric (415) 252-8227 E20

AUSTRALIAN GUY
Beefy, masc guy with big tool in
SF for a short time very good
looking, friendly, unhurried for in or
out. Call Rob 24/7 cel 415 377 2377 E19

SOPHISTICATED GOLDEN BOY
Athletic, Muscular, Striking,
5'10" Blnd/Hzl Companionship for
private or social affairs. Adventurous
Days - Cosmopolitan Nights.
Available for travel. - 24x7
http://goldboy.attbi.com -
goldboy@attbi.com E21

Handsome muscular hung Italian
Hungry hole n deep throat for
n shape tops n bottoms ass n ball
shave 4 fun. David 305-5268 E19

Last chance 'til this fall!
Hot, hung, horny Ital. top
Angelo 415-414-4664 Out only E19

HUNG MUSCLE
Very Handsome 5'9", 190lbs of
ripped muscle. Into all scenes. Extra
hung and hard tool. Friendly, mascu-
line. For unhurried service call
Andre 415-699-3269 E19

10"x6"cut 6'6" 220 br/bl 45yo
XTRA HUNG DAD
All scenes-kink- 24hrs 225-8093,
verbal, role playing. E19

MAN WITH A FIST • TOYS
Give it up to Nick • Nob Hill •
I'm Great w/Beginners 885-1471 E21

NEED A HAND? LIKE WS?
Solid & muscular w lg hands & 9" rod
48 sling! Leather? on line Derek 207-0381 E21

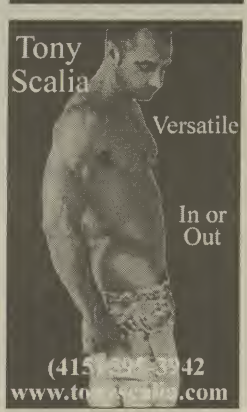
FORCEFUL PLOWING
By hot hung top pg 888 215 2268 E19

BIKDER TOP, ITALIAN
6'3", 235lbs, muscular, inked,
thick stache & tool 13ee feet
Bruno 415-596-6235 E19

Hot Italian boy 5'8", 140 25 y/o
Hairy masc. vers. Erin 882-7388 E19







CHINESE SPICE FOR U
26, 5'11", 174lbs, 7"uncut, playful
top, suave, smooth 415-518•0168 E19

Friendly, vers, educated,+massage
HOT HORNY FOOTBALLER
Strong+stocky, 28, 6'2", 195#, bl/brn
Thick tool+tight ass*414-2939
geocities.com/TalentedTal*$85 E19

CUM STARVED MUSCLE PUNK!!
SUBMISSIVE BOTTOM GREAT SERVICE NICK 709-1467 E22

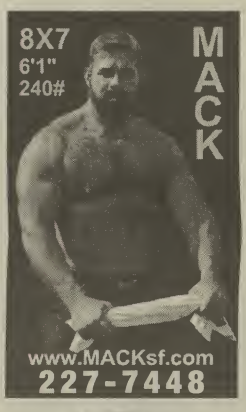
FARM FRESH!
One hot Southern stud for you. 6'2",
195# blnd & blu, cute! Call Joey
24/7 cell 415 255•6855 (travel) E19

BDSM TOP
B&D/S&M top takes you where
you need to go. Nice guy with
experience and skill. Into most scenes.
Beginners to extreme. Out only.
Evenings/ Weekends. 415/356-9820 E20

AMERASN BTM BOY
Facelink.com/keepitreal
Cute 23/5'6"/125 Jay 415-519-7546 E19









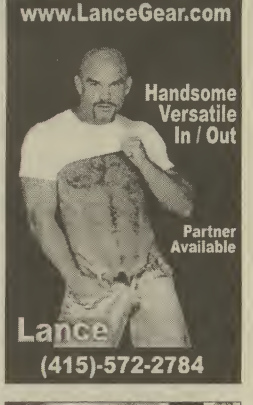
Masculine and horny
TAHOE MOUNTAIN STUD
5'11", 165, 24, muscular
gd lkng top, Tahoe, Reno, SF
Josh 208-310-1149 msg, out only E19

TOTAL TOP
Muscular, well defined, 31 yr old blk.
For FF, WS, or plain vanilla. 5'10",
215 lbs. $175. 256-6027 pgr. Ray E19

EROTIC ENEMAS+
Given to Hot Boys. Young, Smooth
& Athletic. 18-28. Free to Hot Jocks
11/11, 7 days. Eric (415) 409-7070 E19

Big balls, thick, tasty-meat, goatee
buzzcut. Masculine, handsome & tall-
SHVD. HEAD STUD
For hard times and oral needs-
Clint* 415-540-5311*in/out*24hrs. E19







Hot blonde w/green eyes 5'7" 135#
SEXY NEW BOYTOY
Hot & horny 22yo smoothe/verstl
In/out calls- Jason 415-210-1526 E19

9" versatile stud boy
JAY (415) 245-0098 24/7 E19

MODEL/ESCORTS

ENGLISH ESCORT
Intimate companion, caring, amusing, intelligent. 989-7736
E23

BLK FULL BRED TOP
Hung masculine and handsome very discreet. Out only Cedric pgr/vm 510•639•6576
E19

27yo 5'9", 155# nice muscular body
BUTCH HOTTIE
Laid-back attitude. Out 540-1333
E19

HUNG STUD
26yrs old naturally smooth swimmers build 5'9" 140lbs Lots of fun pager 414 5264
E19

COLLEGE BOY-21
www.geocities.com/sfcheckit In-$100 out- $120 415-377-1704
E19

Big balls thick 7.5" $40 mature fit South Bay oral top versatile out only 408-629-2670
E22

BACK IN TOWN
Sexy, masculine well built male 5'8", 155 worked out body. 7.5cut Hot play no attitude Call Jay @ 948 8131

WHITE BOY 24/7
E19

MULATTO GUY "9"
(415) 775-4771 24-hours
E19

Super cleancut, hung
HOT MED STUDNT
27, 5'11", 160 smooth ripped
BRENT 297-7147 TOP/OUT
E19

STR8 STUD!
Powerful masculine hot!!! 5'9", 180# blonde blue muscular Mike 415-995-7550 & 707/510 areas
E20

Party Stud/346-4966/Ken/ $60-$80
E26

MASCULINE TOP
Puerto Rican Stud hung 9" +semismooth 6ft, 210lbs, tattoos Lots of fun pager 210-0349
E19

SIZE 12 FEET 21 YO WM
$100 in or out 415-739-9217
WWW.SFFOOTPLAY.COM
E19

Goodlooking great body nice butt Horsehung 10 1/2 Barry 415-378-8587
E19

COMING TO RENO?
27yrs 6'3" 210 8inch vers btm available in Reno/Tahoe/Bay Area In/out/travel 530-412-3453
E20

2 HOT BLACK TOPS & AT.V.
9"hung, athletic, muscular, 5'10" 8"plus, muscular, lean, dominant-discreet, handsome, masculine tops & a 6' amazon Black dominant T.V. 510-406-4622
E19

"408"
"Nice guy. Serious Massage. 2-3 hours. Excellent. In/Out 80-120. Mick 248-0770
E20

Goodlooking, 6'1", 165 Lbs
ASIAN TOP
$80/$100 * JIM 269-5707
E19

Mike, 37, 5'10", 200#, Bl/Blu Clean-cut, Muscle Hunk In/Out $100 (415) 863-8932
E02-03

Get Naked/Relax/Hug/Release/ Oral/8" Nudist/346-4966/Ken/$60
E22

Domint*oral/top*kicks/back for service
*10"X6*UNCUT*
very verbal*role play*w/s*fat tool goodlooking*in or out*847-3585 *24hrs*
E19

PEOPLE



To be competitive today an advertiser needs to target his market. advertisers in the BAY AREA REPORTER know exactly the audience they are reaching. They get facts, not guesstimates or promises. The reason- we're audited by Verified, a national auditing service respected for over 40 years in the publishing industry. Verified's field and internal audits give our advertisers the facts they need and help us keep our distribution in top shape.

We are just as committed to giving our advertisers honest and precise circulation data as we are to providing our readers with interesting and valuable information. Credibility and integrity are an integral part of our business plan.

No question about it.

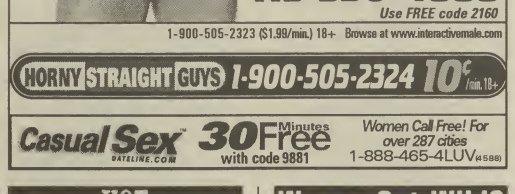
VERIFIED

PEOPLE











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build a nice and hot body for your next date, ACT NOW!
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BI CURIOUS?
Local Live Male Chat.
Record/listen to ads for FREE!
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Use FREE code 2166

HOT LIVE TALK DATELINE
ONE ON ONE OR more!
1-900-435-1595 18yo+ $2.99 a min
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ROCK HARD MEN!!!
are waiting to Tempt YOU!!! 18+ Only!
Call 415-247-5555
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Meet MEN Right Now!
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MrN MrN
Preview each guy before you decide to connect live!
Try it for
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(415) 707-2400 (510) 281-2400
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Butt Bottoms wanted for FF/toys 415-752-0971
39-02

Good Head in Sonoma County. Call Days 707-823-3895
E23

Concord GAM luvs sucking cock Sks 20-40s STD/HIV- G/Bi/BL/WM Pls no overweights 925 671 2704
E06/2002

Body Trim & Shave "Castro Area Location". Call 4 apptmt * 626-1168
E24

Bare-Assed Spanking Experienced, Safe: 415-929-1185 www.daddyhoward.com
E29

San Francisco's #1 Gay Dateline Call: 1-900-255-2221 $2.99 min. 18+. $3.49 connection charge.
E19

S.F. SPANK PARTY INFO
415-864-2766 or Private Session
E19

MAMA'S FAMILY PEOPLE:
We are looking for any family members that would like to entertain at Mama's 60th birthday party on June 2nd @ Daddy's Bar. Talented singers, lip synchers, stand-up or lay-down comedians, let me know. Email me at SFLeatherBoy01@aol.com. Today!
E20

W Male 54 yrs,slim,hung,uncut,HIV-seeks W Male HIV-, fit, 50+yrs for mutual oral. 415-731-0302 Eves after 5PM
E19

GWM,40,6',195#,tatoos,HIV-,9"cut wants horny cut & uncut Latin, Black & White Tops 25-55•Gary 431-1437•
E19

CONGRAUALTIONS TO:
ERIC BERNIER
GOLDEN BOY 2002
Voted Best All-Around Sex in the last 12 months at the Golden Dildeaux Awards last Saturday, April 20th
E19

Strap You! 510-654-1122
E28

Suck Slave Wanted
Under 40, HIV-, by a blue-eyed HIV-, 52 X-Clean 6'1"/232# w/big load
Call Butch • 650-274-9200
E19

PERSONALS

PEOPLE

WANTED!
BAY AREA MEN
• Live Talk
• Meet Ads
• Voice Mail
24 Hours
$2.00
976-7500
Free
(415) 981-8123

24 HOUR MEN!
24 hours a day HOT, HUNG MEN are looking to HOOK-UP on Club Voice-MALE! 18+ Record & Listen
FREE! Call 415-247-5555
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Meet MEN Right Now!
MRN
MrN ◆ MrN
Preview each guy before you decide to connect live!
Try it for
FREE
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YOUR INTIMATE PICTURES
Why not? Give yourself a gift. Uses: Internet, intimate friends, lovers, etc. Professional, experienced photographer. Studi, Digital and 35mm film. Scanned. 415 759-0348 • Lorenzo E19

Balls stretched while you moan. 665-4825 E21

Daddy's home and has a fresh green switch for your discipline. 552-1425 E20

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... your ad to the *Bay Area Reporter* Personals by calling David at 415-861-5019!



XXX WEB



BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

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DEADLINE
NOON on **MONDAY.** Payment *must* accompany ad. No ads taken over the telephone. If you have a question, call 415.861.5019. Display advertising rates available upon request.

RATES

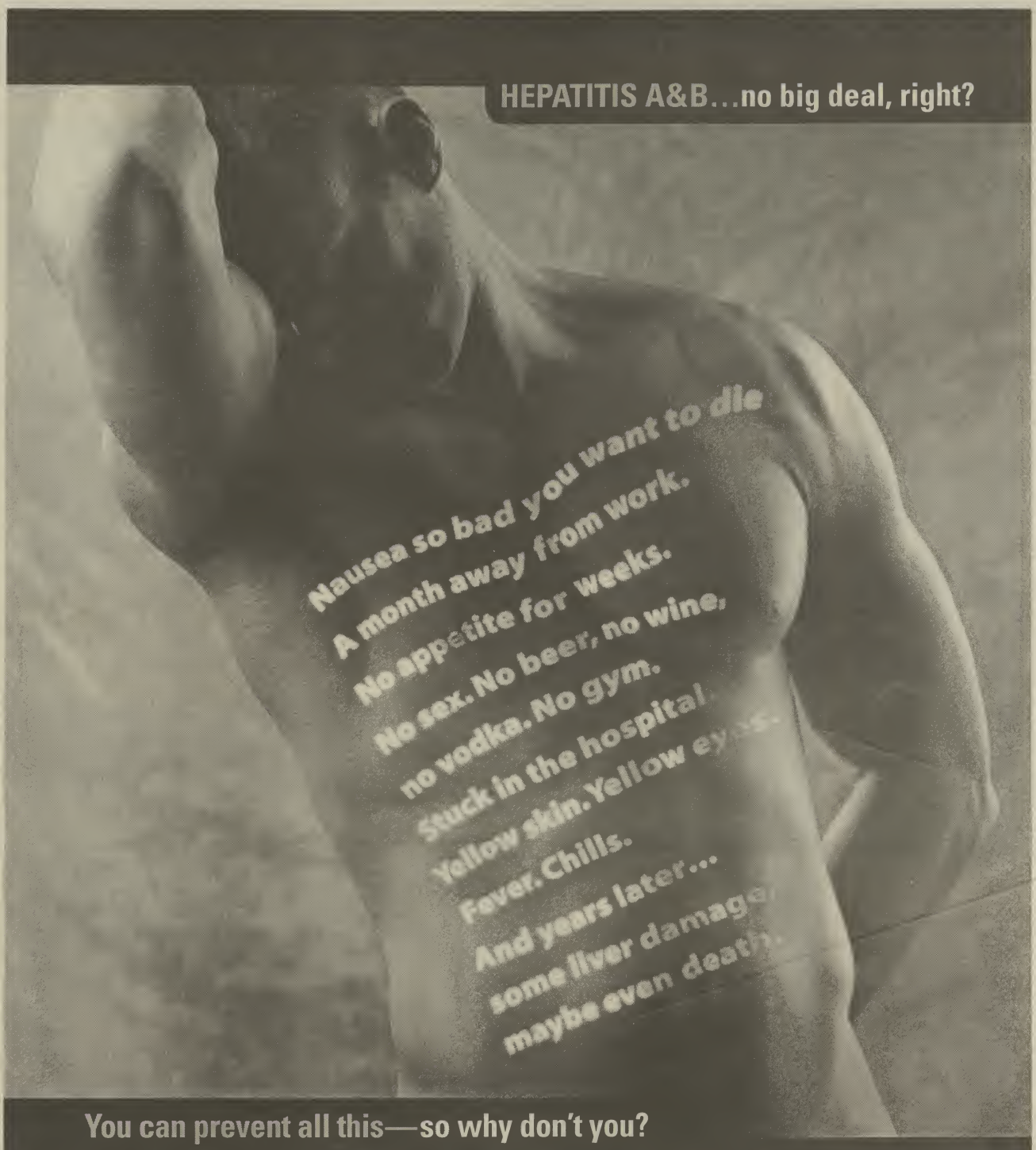
First line, Regular	4.50
All subsequent lines	3.00
CAPS	double price
BOLD	double price
X-BOLD	triple price

PAYMENT
☐ Cash
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☐ Money Order
☐ Visa
☐ MasterCard
☐ American Express
Minimum $10 charge.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT
Card Number
Expiration Date
Signature
Name

CONTACT INFORMATION
Name
Telephone
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State
Zip
Number of Issues
Classification
Amount Enclosed

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395 Ninth Street
SF, CA 94103
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You can prevent all this—so why don't you?

The fact is, hepatitis *is* a very big deal. And men who have sex with men are at greater risk for hepatitis A and B. That's why the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA), as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), recommends you get vaccinated to prevent these 2 serious diseases.

PROTECT YOURSELF! See your doctor about vaccination today. For referral to a gay-friendly physician near you, call GLMA at 1-877-LGBTDOC or visit our Web site at www.glma.org/hepatitis

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Suite 405
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www.dph.sf.ca.us

GLMA
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www.glma.org

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